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THE #1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST-SELLING SERIES

# BATMAN™

VOLUME 8  
**SUPERHEAVY**



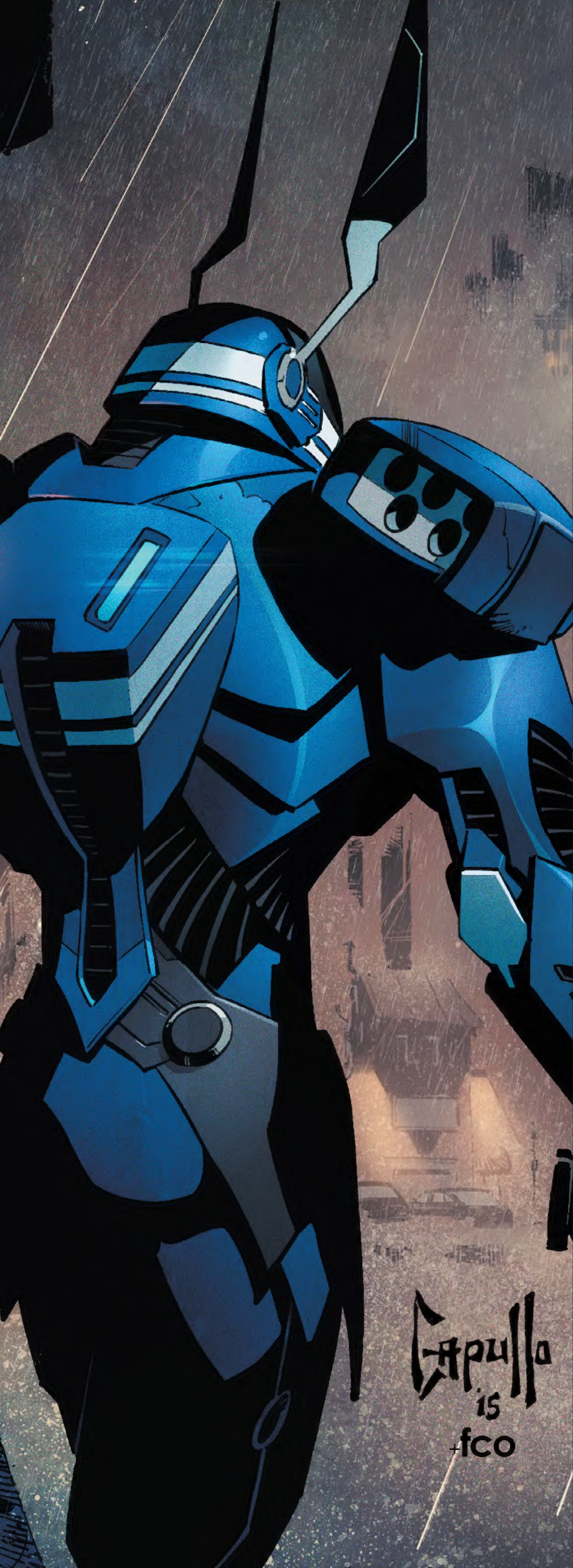
Capullo fco  
15  
Plascencia

SCOTT SNYDER GREG CAPULLO  
DANNY MIKI FCO PLASCENCIA



VOLUME 8  
SUPERHEAVY

# BATMAN



Capullo  
is  
+fco





# BATMAN

VOLUME 8  
SUPERHEAVY

WRITTEN BY  
**SCOTT SNYDER**

PENCILS BY  
**GREG CAPULLO**

INKS BY  
**DANNY MIKI**

COLOR BY  
**FCO PLASCENCIA**

LETTERS BY  
**STEVE WANDS**

INTERLUDE  
WRITTEN BY  
**SCOTT SNYDER  
& BRIAN AZZARELLO**

ART BY  
**JOCK**

COLORS BY  
**LEE LOUGHRIDGE**

LETTERS BY  
**DERON BENNETT**

COLLECTION COVER ARTISTS  
**GREG CAPULLO  
& DANNY MIKI**

BATMAN CREATED BY  
**BOB KANE** with **BILL FINGER**

SUPERMAN CREATED BY  
**JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER**

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH  
THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY



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REBECCA TAYLOR Associate Editor - Original Series  
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**BATMAN VOL. 8: SUPERHEAVY**

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"YOU SEE IT AND  
YOU *KNOW* JUST  
WHAT IT MEANS.

"IT MEANS  
*HE'S* COMING.

"IT APPEARS IN THE  
SKY AND  
IMMEDIATELY YOU  
CAN SENSE IT, SENSE  
HIM ON HIS WAY...

"...YOU CAN *HEAR* THE  
RUMBLE OF THE CAR.  
*SEE* THE GROWING  
SHADOW...

"...YOU'RE SMILING  
WITHOUT KNOWING  
IT. A TINGLING IN  
YOUR HANDS.

"YOU FEEL HIS APPROACH LIKE A  
SONG INSIDE YOU, DARK AND  
JOYFUL, SWELLING, THE SAME  
NOTES OVER AND OVER, LIKE A  
DRUMBEAT GETTING FASTER.

"NA. NA. NA-NA,  
NA-NA-NA-NA..."



"...BUT HE'S *NOT*  
COMING."

"NOT TONIGHT."

"NOT *EVER*  
AGAIN."







"IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE THE JOKER UNLEASHED HIS DEADLY **ENDGAME** VIRUS ON GOTHAM.

"TWO MONTHS SINCE BATMAN **FOILED** HIS PLAN AND CURED THE CITY...

"...BUT THE TRUTH IS, TWO MONTHS LATER, GOTHAM MIGHT BE **CURED**, BUT IT'S ANYTHING BUT HEALED.

"SO MANY PEOPLE MISSING, SO MUCH DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, TO EACH OTHER..."

...AND PERHAPS THE **GREATEST** INJURY TO THIS CITY, THE ONE WE MIGHT NEVER RECOVER FROM...IS, OF COURSE, THE LOSS OF **BATMAN** HIMSELF.

ALL REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS OUTLETS ARE REPORTING THAT THE CAPED CRUSADER **PERISHED** SOMEWHERE DEEP BENEATH GOTHAM, DURING A FINAL BATTLE WITH THE JOKER.



THE **ONLY** CONSOLATION FOR THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THIS CITY--AND THIS IS JUST **THIS** REPORTER'S OPINION, **NOT** THE STATION'S--IS KNOWING THAT BATMAN TOOK THAT **MONSTER JOKER** WITH HIM.

AGAIN, ~~=koff=~~ JUST MY VIEWS, BUT I NEEDED TO SAY THAT.

13 GOTHAM NEWS 13 Batman and Joker - their deadly final battle

WHAT WE CAN **ALL** AGREE ON, I'M SURE, IS THAT A GOTHAM CITY **WITHOUT** BATMAN IS A STRANGE, SAD, AND **EMPTY** PLACE INDEED.

HE TAUGHT US TO BE **UNAFRAID**. TO BE **OURSELVES**. TO BE **FIGHTERS**. TO BE A LITTLE CRAZY, TOO.

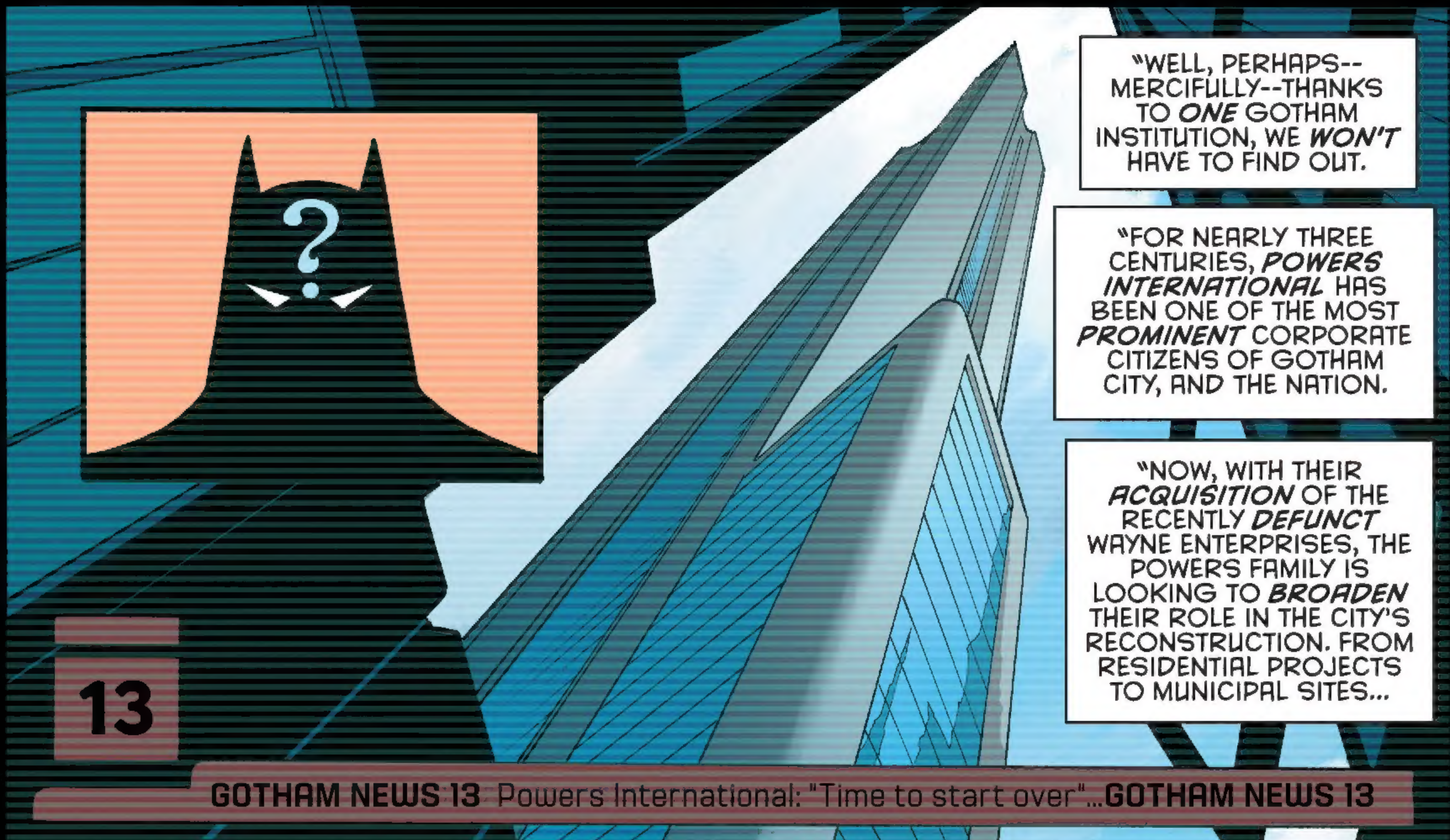
SO WHO **ARE** WE, FELLOW GOTHAMITES, WITHOUT BATMAN?



13

GOTHAM NEWS 13 Batman and Joker - their deadly final battle





"WELL, PERHAPS--  
MERCIFULLY--THANKS  
TO *ONE* GOTHAM  
INSTITUTION, WE *WON'T*  
HAVE TO FIND OUT.

"FOR NEARLY THREE  
CENTURIES, *POWERS  
INTERNATIONAL* HAS  
BEEN ONE OF THE MOST  
*PROMINENT* CORPORATE  
CITIZENS OF GOTHAM  
CITY, AND THE NATION.

"NOW, WITH THEIR  
*ACQUISITION* OF THE  
RECENTLY *DEFUNCT*  
WAYNE ENTERPRISES, THE  
POWERS FAMILY IS  
LOOKING TO *BROADEN*  
THEIR ROLE IN THE CITY'S  
RECONSTRUCTION. FROM  
RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS  
TO MUNICIPAL SITES...

GOTHAM NEWS 13 Powers International: "Time to start over"...GOTHAM NEWS 13

"...TO *BATMAN  
HIMSELF.*"

## CEO GERI POWERS

THERE IS NO  
REPLACING BATMAN.  
THE MAN WHO INSPIRED  
US, WHO FOUGHT AND DIED  
PROTECTING US...HE'LL  
*ALWAYS* BE THE GREATEST  
HERO THIS CITY HAS  
EVER KNOWN.

BUT THE FACT  
IS, THIS CITY *NEEDS*  
A BATMAN. WE BELIEVE  
THAT HERE. *I* BELIEVE IT,  
DEEPLY AND TRULY. I  
DIDN'T ALWAYS...UNTIL  
WE LOST HIM, AND  
NOW I DO.

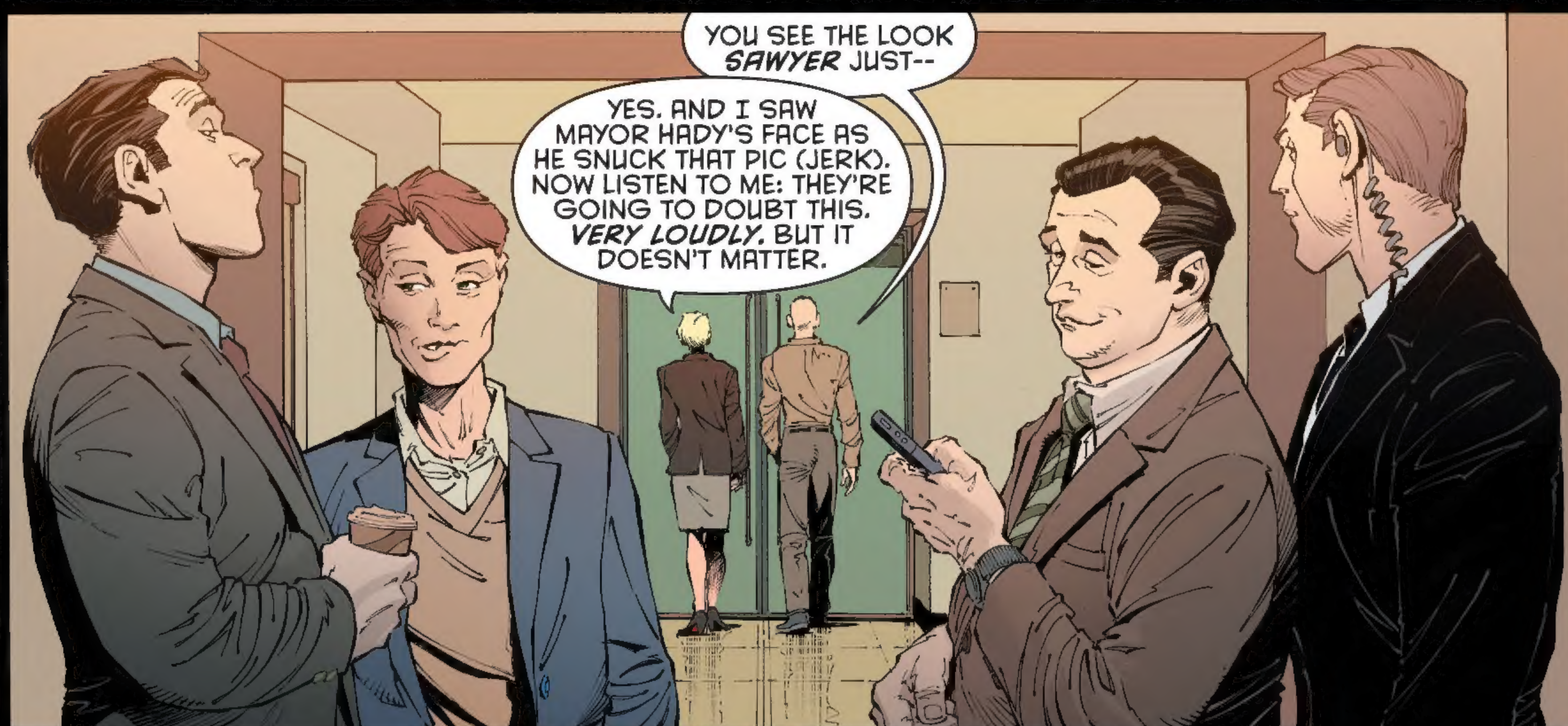
AND WHILE  
THERE'S NO REPLACING  
THE ORIGINAL BATMAN,  
MAYBE THERE'S A WAY TO  
*HONOR* HIM, BY  
CARRYING ON HIS WORK  
IN A *NEW* WAY.

SO HERE AT  
POWERS, WE'VE BEEN  
WORKING WITH THE MAYOR'S  
OFFICE, WITH THE CITY  
GOVERNMENT, EVEN WITH THE  
*POLICE FORCE*, TO CREATE  
SOMETHING *NEW*, FOR A NEW  
CITY, A NEW ERA. SOMETHING  
BRIGHT AND BOLD.  
SOMETHING--













...COMMISSIONER GORDON?

ABSOLUTELY NOT.



POW



AND I'D LIKE TO GO ON RECORD AS SAYING THIS IS THE *DUMBEST* IDEA IN THE HISTORY OF GOTHAM CITY.



NOW WHERE'S MY DAMN BATMOBILE?

LET'S GO HAVE SOME *FUN*.





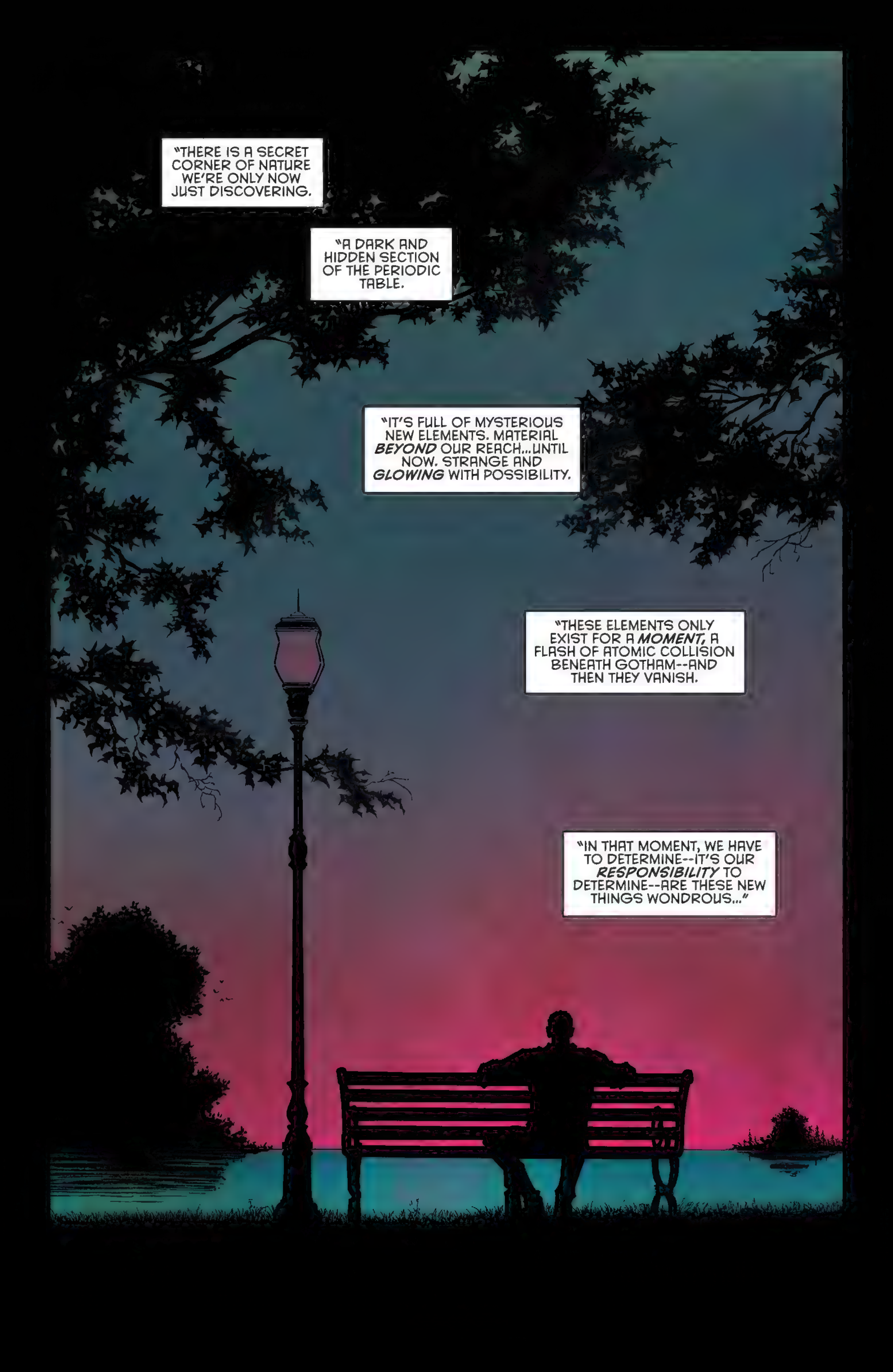
Capulla  
is  
fco





Capullo  
5  
RIP



A man is sitting on a wooden bench, facing away from the viewer, looking out over a body of water at sunset. The sky is a vibrant orange and yellow. To the left of the bench is a tall, ornate black lamp post with a glowing yellow light. Large, dark silhouettes of trees frame the top and left sides of the scene. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

"THERE IS A SECRET  
CORNER OF NATURE  
WE'RE ONLY NOW  
JUST DISCOVERING.

"A DARK AND  
HIDDEN SECTION  
OF THE PERIODIC  
TABLE.

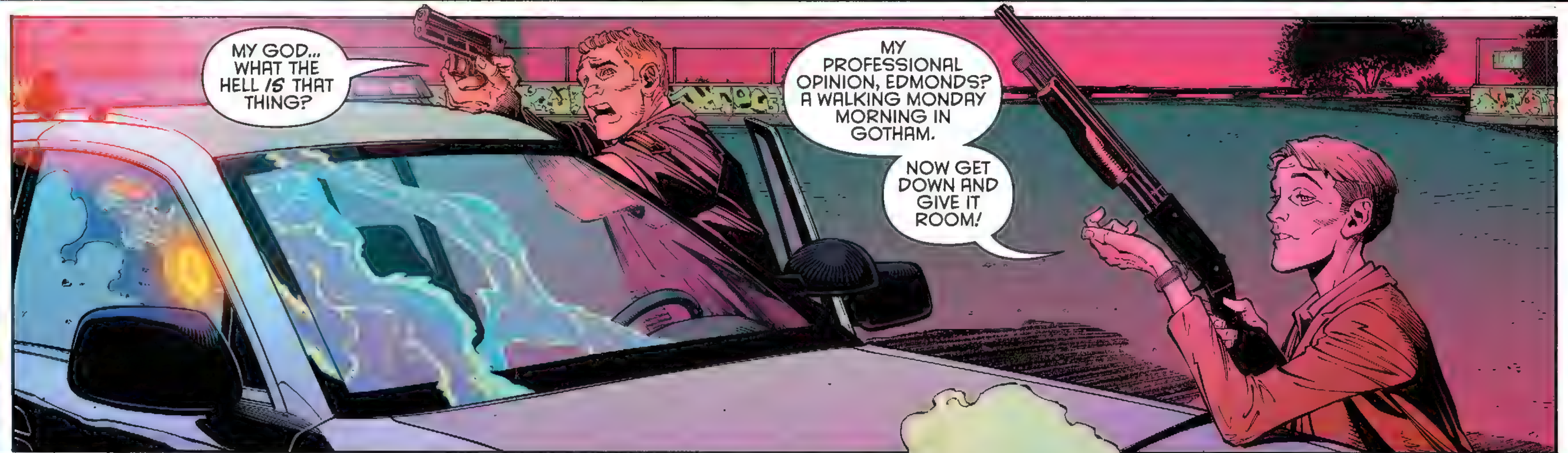
"IT'S FULL OF MYSTERIOUS  
NEW ELEMENTS. MATERIAL  
*BEYOND* OUR REACH...UNTIL  
NOW. STRANGE AND  
*GLOWING* WITH POSSIBILITY.

"THESE ELEMENTS ONLY  
EXIST FOR A *MOMENT*, A  
FLASH OF ATOMIC COLLISION  
BENEATH GOTHAM--AND  
THEN THEY VANISH.

"IN THAT MOMENT, WE HAVE  
TO DETERMINE--IT'S OUR  
*RESPONSIBILITY* TO  
DETERMINE--ARE THESE NEW  
THINGS WONDROUS..."



"...OR HORRIFYING?"  
-- Geri Powers, CEO,  
Powers International





"...IT."

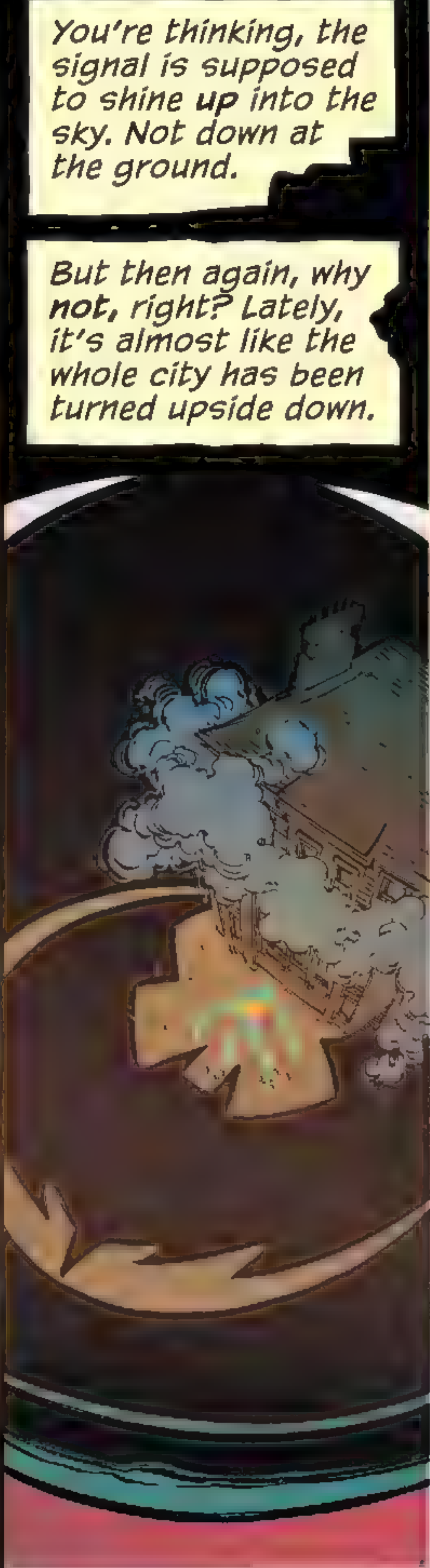


Ah, I bet I know what you're thinking.

Yes, you.

You're thinking, the signal is supposed to shine up into the sky. Not down at the ground.

But then again, why not, right? Lately, it's almost like the whole city has been turned upside down.



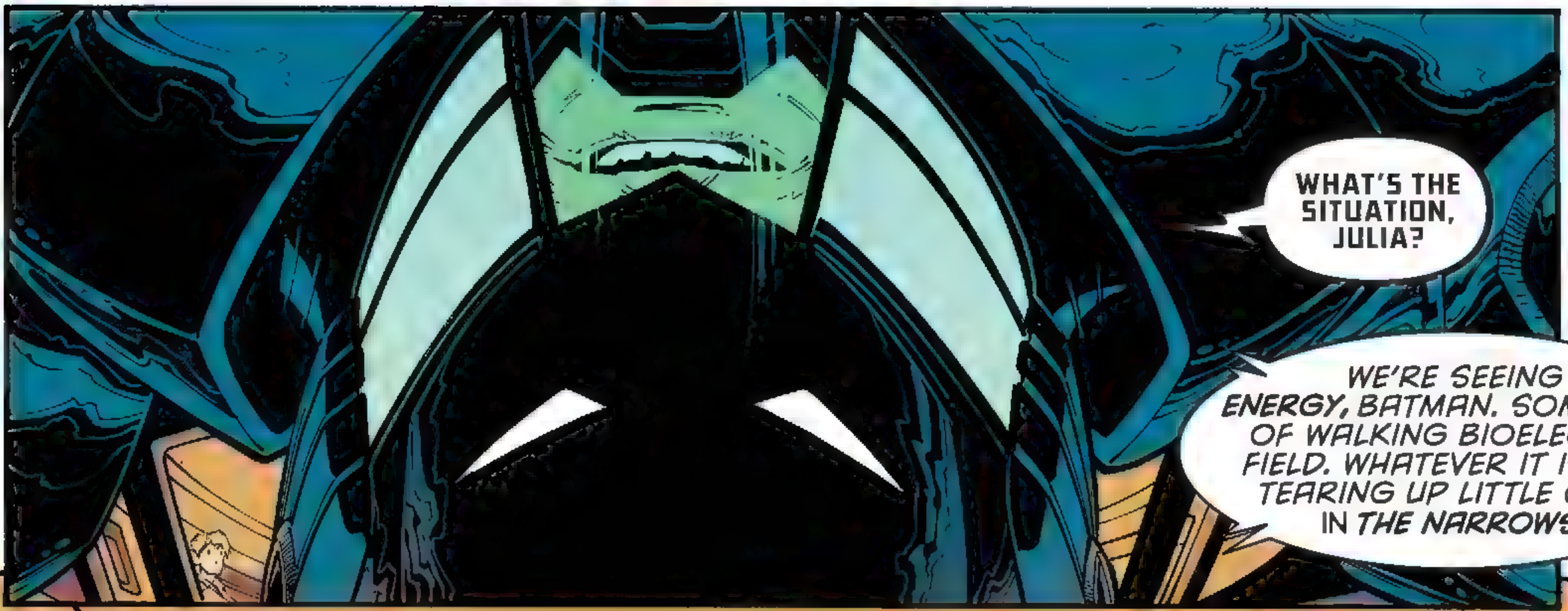
Like it's been completely upended by Batman's death. Ever since--

AHEM. YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET. TELL ME YOU'RE NOT NAVEL-GAZING AGAIN.

BATMAN HAS NO NAVEL.







WHAT'S THE SITUATION, JULIA?

WE'RE SEEING ENERGY, BATMAN. SOME KIND OF WALKING BIOELECTRIC FIELD. WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S TEARING UP LITTLE CUBA IN THE NARROWS.



SPECIFICALLY, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S AFTER SOMETHING IN THE BANK AND CREDIT UNION AT 23RD AND PROSPECT.

I KNOW IT.

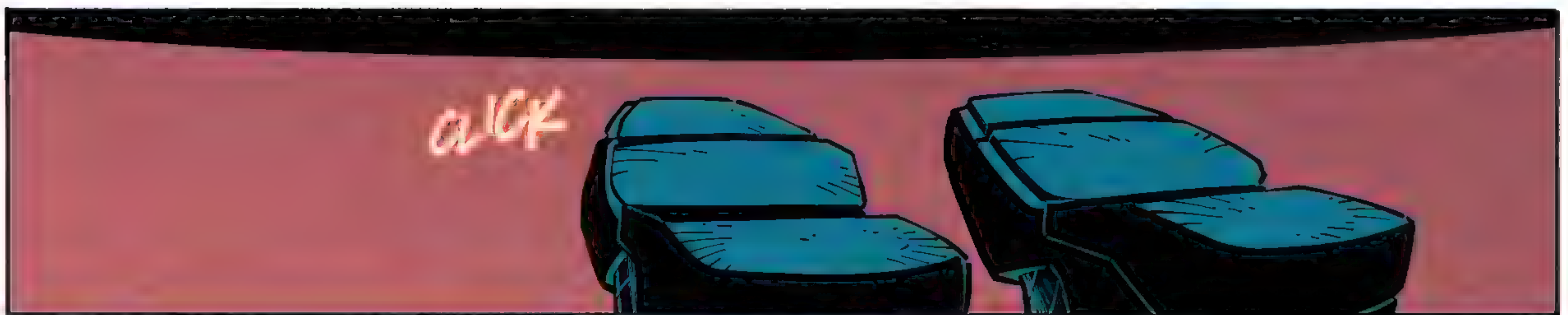
AND WE'RE GOOD TO GO. ANYTIME, BATMAN.



NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.

THAT'S A GO. JUST REMEMBER... THINK BAT-THOUGHTS.

BAT-THOUGHTS. ONLY AND EVER.



CLICK

Bat-thoughts. Bat-thoughts. Bat-thoughts... all right, here we go.

First. You're not plummeting. You're swooping. **Swooping.**



Second, you did not leave the stove on.

Third, that doesn't even matter, because you are not Jim Gordon. Not today. Not anymore.

Right here, right now...

You...are...





...the  
**BATMAN.**





You'll practice that.

Now, giant energy-man, what brings you to Little Cuba?!

I mean, sure, good people, good food. Best baseball player in Gotham history lives here. Dodger Valera. Five-ring catcher.

So what is it you're here t--

BOOM

BATMAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

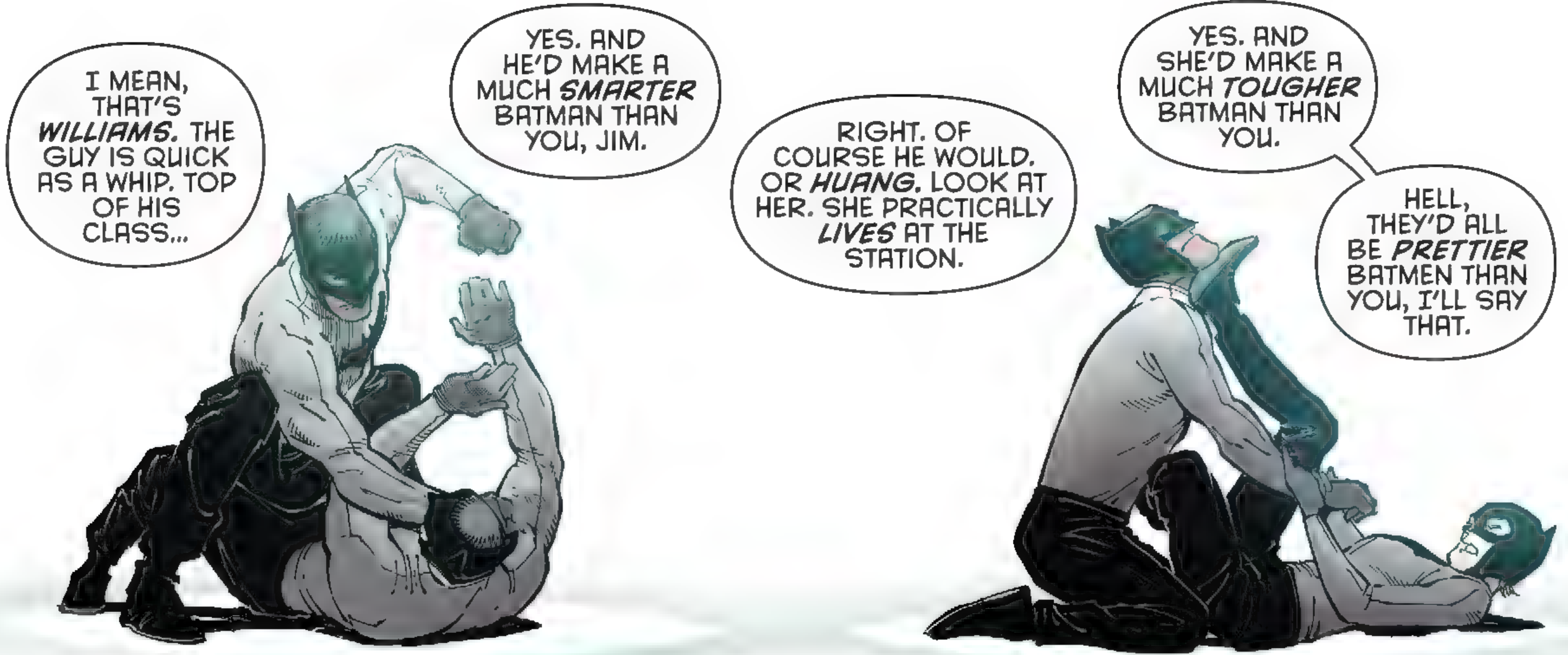
⇒Unh⇒ Bat-thoughts... that hurt. A lot.

Damn, Jim...









I MEAN, THAT'S **WILLIAMS**. THE GUY IS QUICK AS A WHIP. TOP OF HIS CLASS...

YES. AND HE'D MAKE A MUCH **SMARTER** BATMAN THAN YOU, JIM.

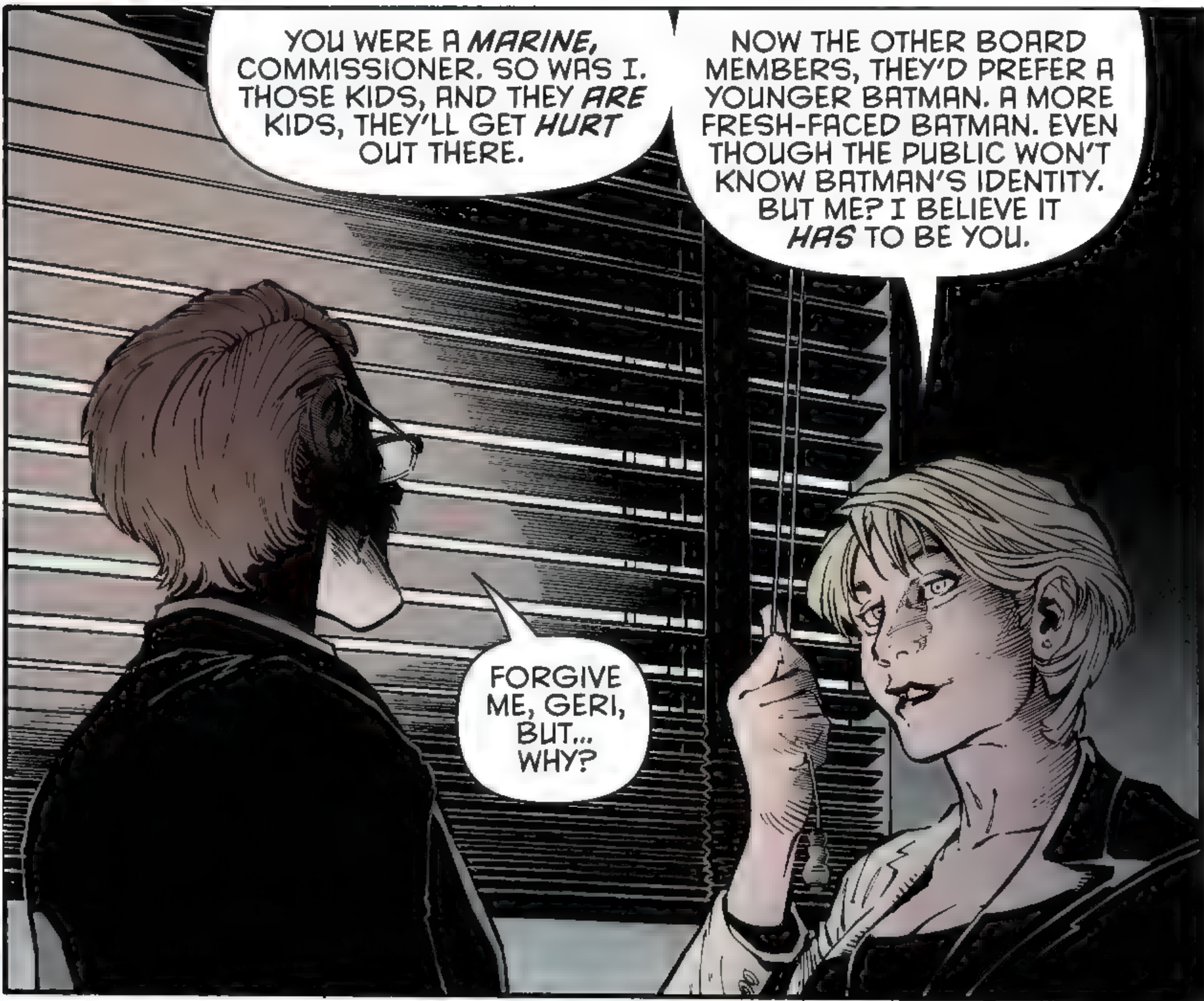
RIGHT. OF COURSE HE WOULD. OR **HUANG**. LOOK AT HER. SHE PRACTICALLY **LIVES** AT THE STATION.

YES. AND SHE'D MAKE A MUCH **TOUGHER** BATMAN THAN YOU.

HELL, THEY'D ALL BE **PRETTIER** BATMEN THAN YOU, I'LL SAY THAT.



BUT NONE OF THEM WOULD BE THE **RIGHT** BATMAN.



YOU WERE A **MARINE**, COMMISSIONER. SO WAS I. THOSE KIDS, AND THEY **ARE** KIDS, THEY'LL GET **HURT** OUT THERE.

NOW THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS, THEY'D PREFER A YOUNGER BATMAN. A MORE FRESH-FACED BATMAN. EVEN THOUGH THE PUBLIC WON'T KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY. BUT ME? I BELIEVE IT **HAS** TO BE YOU.

FORGIVE ME, GERI, BUT... WHY?



BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE **CITY** BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE. YOU'LL MAKE AN UGLY BATMAN, SURE. BUT YOU'LL MAKE THE **BEST** BATMAN. ONE THAT'LL LET ME SLEEP AT NIGHT, KNOWING THIS BATTERED, BEATEN CITY...IS SAFE.

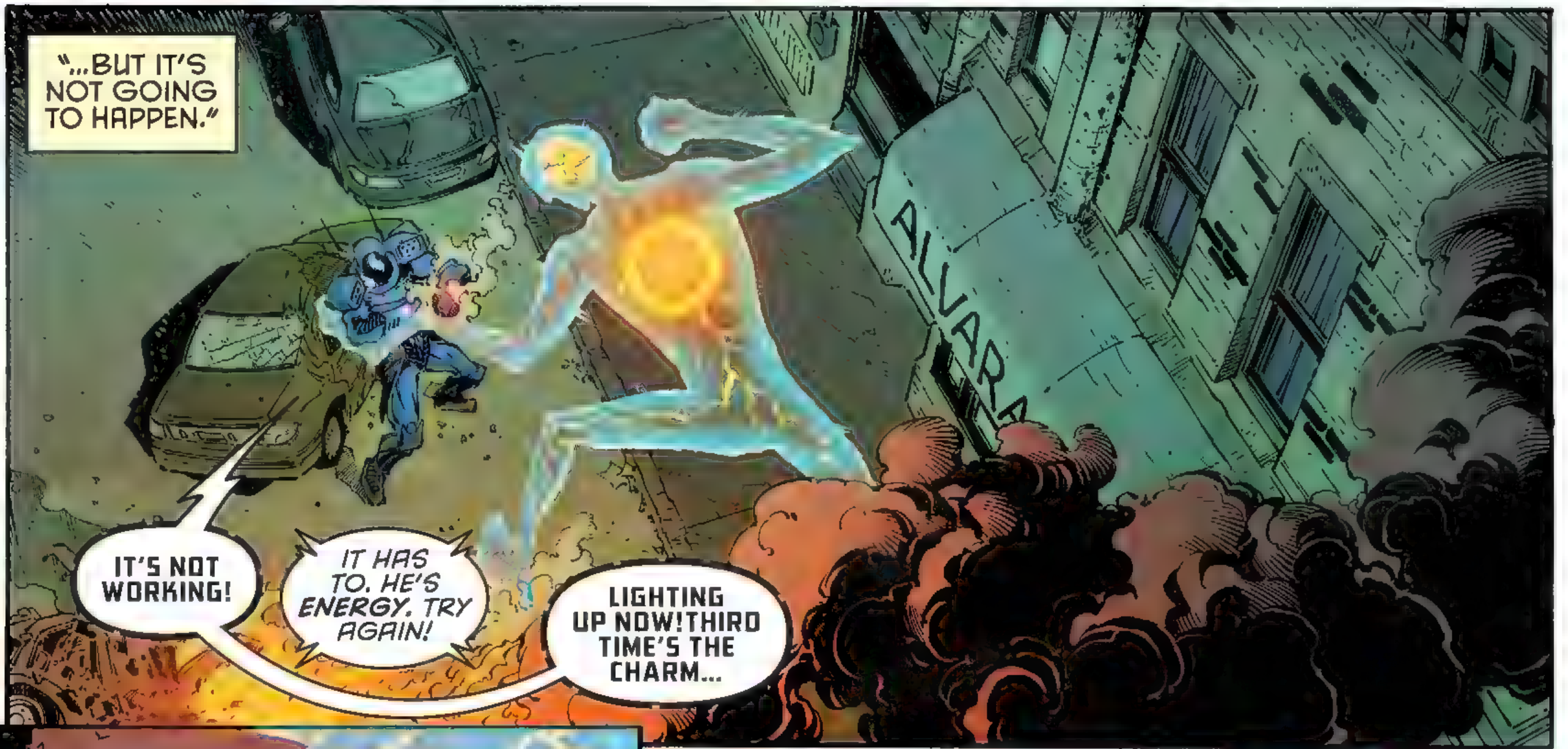
LOOK, I KNOW THE IDEA IS SCARY. BATMAN IS THIS...TERRIFYING, GIANT THING. BUT IT'S JUST AN **ILLUSION**. HE WAS A **MAN**, JIM. THE RIGHT MAN AT THE TIME.

BUT YOU'RE THE RIGHT MAN **NOW**. I'M TELLING YOU. WHAT DO YOU SAY?



...  
I'M SORRY...





"...BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN."

IT'S NOT WORKING!

IT HAS TO. HE'S ENERGY. TRY AGAIN!

LIGHTING UP NOW! THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM...



POOM



NOTHING. DAMMIT!

IT MAKES NO SENSE! AN EM PULSE SHOULD DISRUPT HIM AT LEAST.

UNLESS THE SOURCE IS SOMEWHERE OUT OF RANGE.



UNH! HOW FAR OUT OF RANGE, DARYL? WHERE?!

IT'D...IT'D HAVE TO BE CLOSE. I'D SAY... WITHIN A HALF MILE TO AVOID INTERFERENCE.



HALF A MI--  
WAIT A MINUTE...





BATMAN,  
WHATEVER YOU'RE  
THINKING, YOU NEED  
TO MOVE! IT'S  
CHARGING THAT CAR,  
TURNING IT INTO  
A BOMB!

LISTEN TO ME.  
IF ITS SOURCE IS  
NEARBY, THAT  
MEANS SOMEONE IS  
CONTROLLING IT!

THEY'RE  
PROJECTING THEIR  
OWN BIOELECTRIC  
FIELD.



BATMAN,  
MOVE,  
NOW!



NO.



DON'T  
YOU SEE?

IT'S NOT A  
MONSTER...





YOU'RE MESSING WITH ME, RIGHT? APRIL FOOLS IN SUMMER? HAR HAR.

HAR HAR. IF ONLY.

JIM, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

I'M NOT. I'M JUST SAYING.



SAYING WHAT? CHRIST, YOU SAW THEIR "BATMAN"? YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN THAT HUNK OF METAL? YOU'RE *POLICE*, JIM. YOU'RE TRENCHCOAT, THROUGH AND THROUGH. AND I DON'T THINK THEY MAKE TEN-FOOT TRENCHCOATS.

PLUS, YOU *SMOKE*. BATMAN CAN'T SMOKE.

AND YOU'RE LIKE, WHAT, SIXTY?



I'M FORTY-SIX, HARV.

OH. SORRY. BUT STILL.

I KNOW.

JIM.



⇒Sigh⇒

YOU'VE NEVER *WONDERED*? WHETHER HE'D HAVE BEEN MORE EFFECTIVE IF HE'D WORKED *WITHIN* THE LAW, NOT *OUTSIDE* IT?

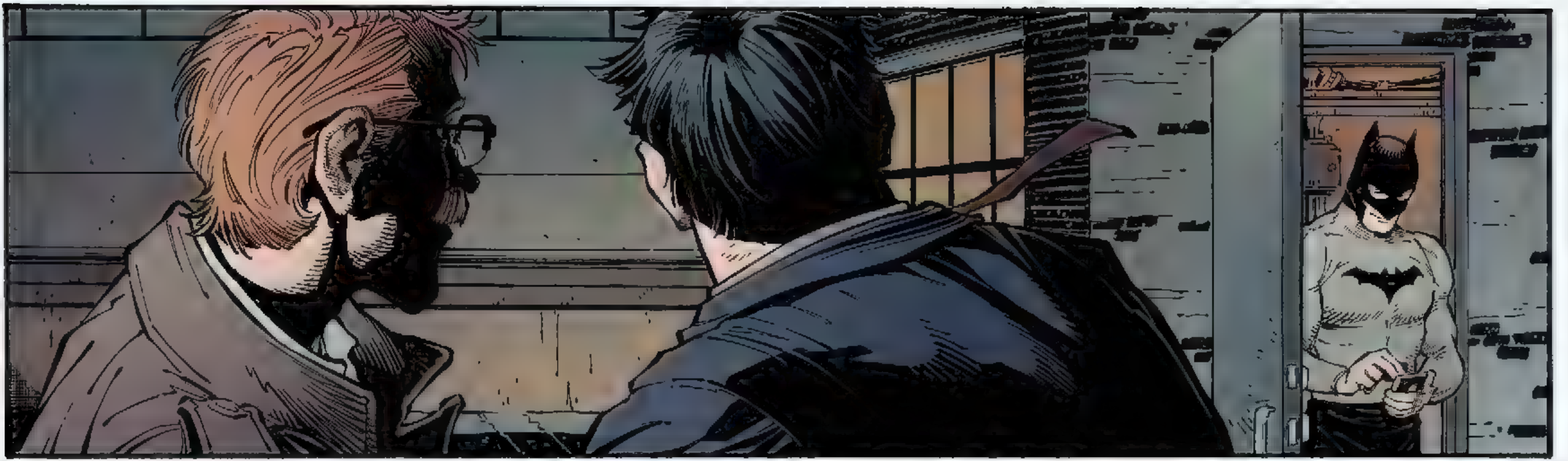
IF BATMAN COULD SHOW PEOPLE THAT THE *SYSTEM* CAN WORK? THAT IT CAN HELP PEOPLE?



NO. NO, I DIDN'T. AND LOOK, I GET THAT THE DEPARTMENT DIDN'T DO THE *BEST* JOB DURING THE LAST JOKER ATTACK, ESPECIALLY IN THE NARROWS, BUT YOU CAN'T LET HER GET TO YOU WITH THIS CADET THING. I KNOW YOU'RE PROTECTIVE OF THEM, BUT THEY'RE CAPABLE. I'M TELLING Y--

*CRASH*





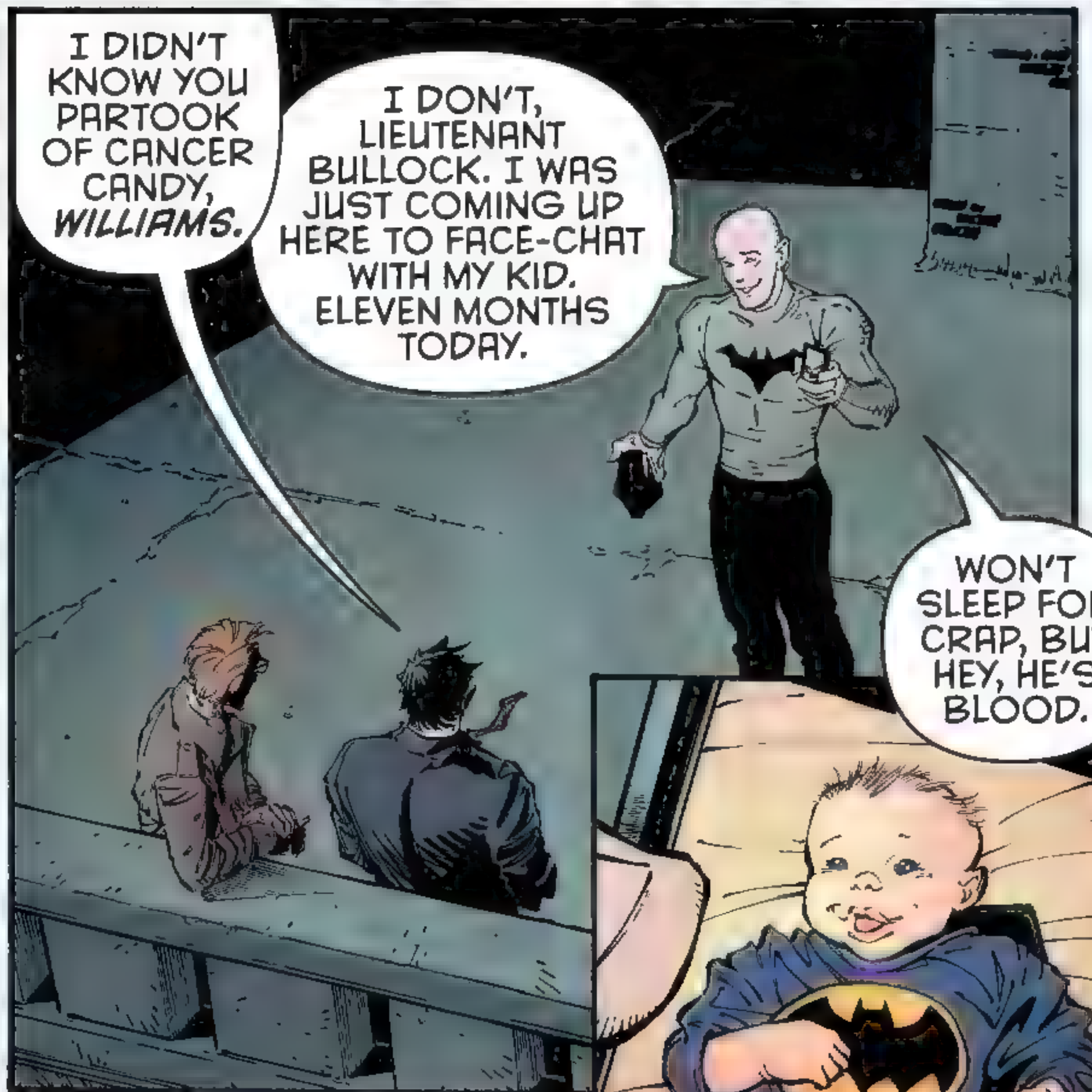
NOT FEELING TOO *STEALTHY* TONIGHT, BATS?

OH, SORRY, I WAS JUST SHOWING THIS STUFF OFF.

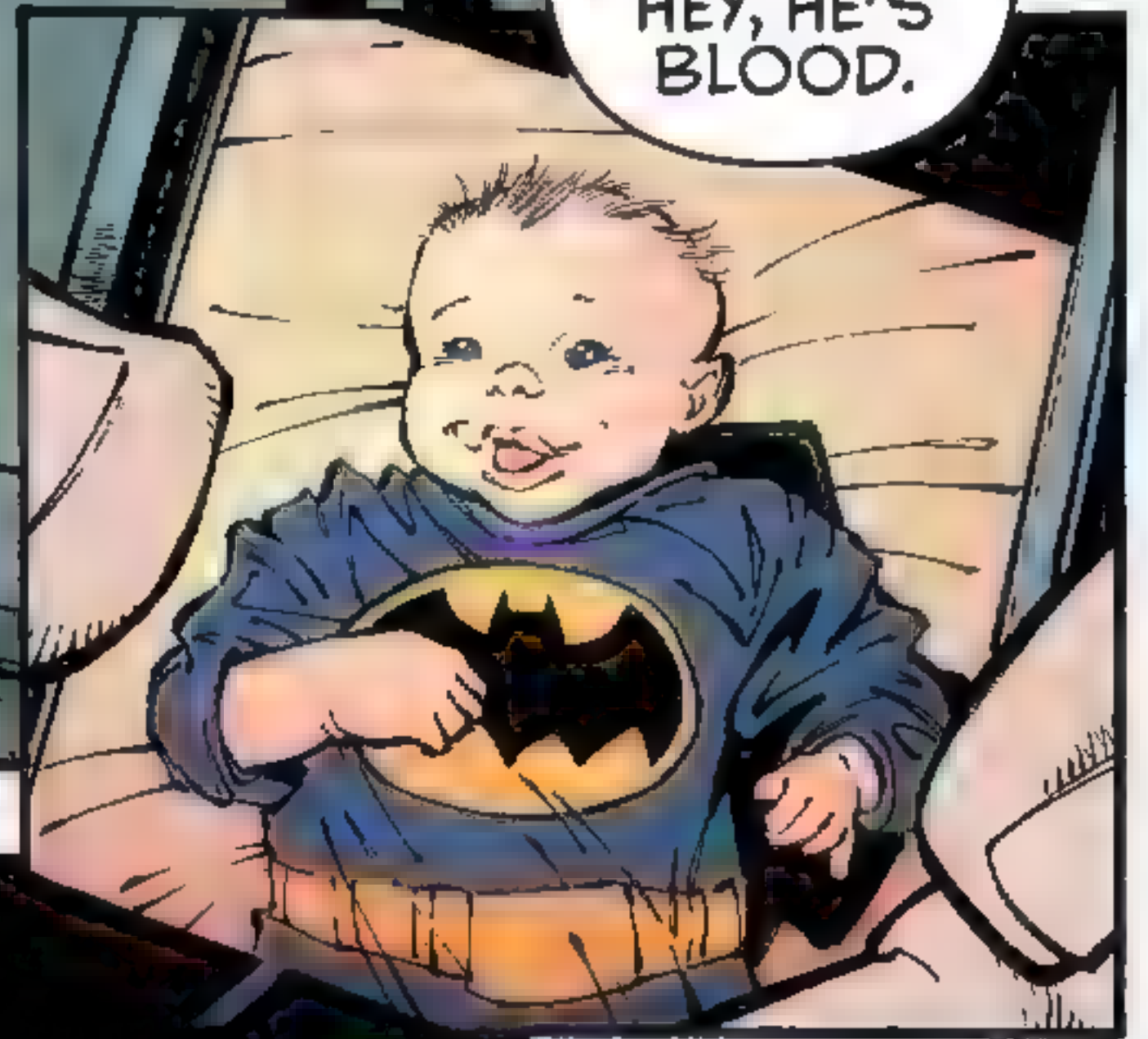


I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PARTOOK OF CANCER CANDY, *WILLIAMS*.

I DON'T, LIEUTENANT BULLOCK. I WAS JUST COMING UP HERE TO FACE-CHAT WITH MY KID. ELEVEN MONTHS TODAY.



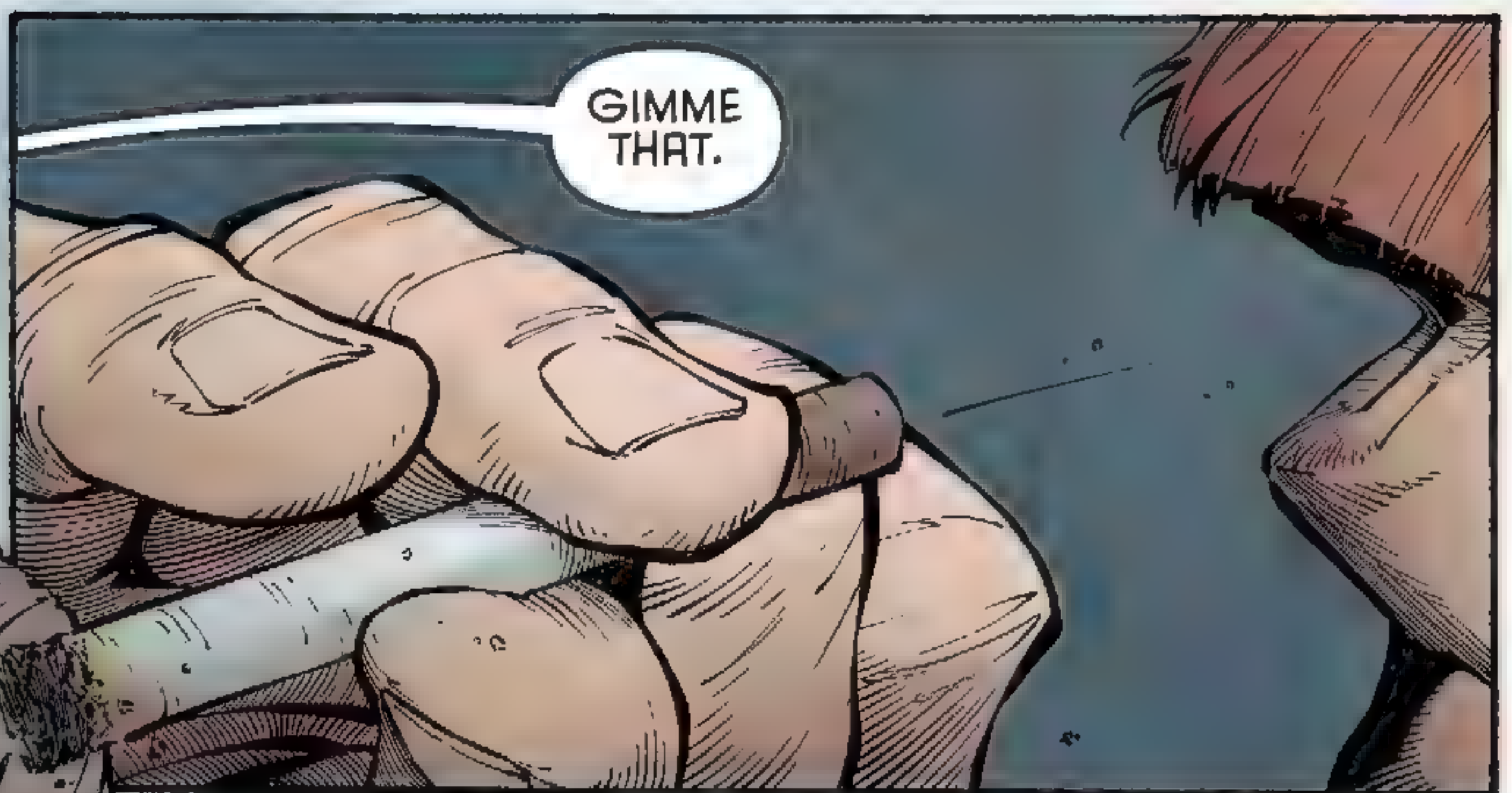
WON'T SLEEP FOR CRAP, BUT HEY, HE'S BLOOD.



CUTE. GO ON. DON'T MIND US.



GIMME THAT.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET *LASIK*, RIGHT?



"THE EYES. HOW DO I WORK THEM?"





ON IT.  
WHAT ARE WE  
LOOKING  
FOR?

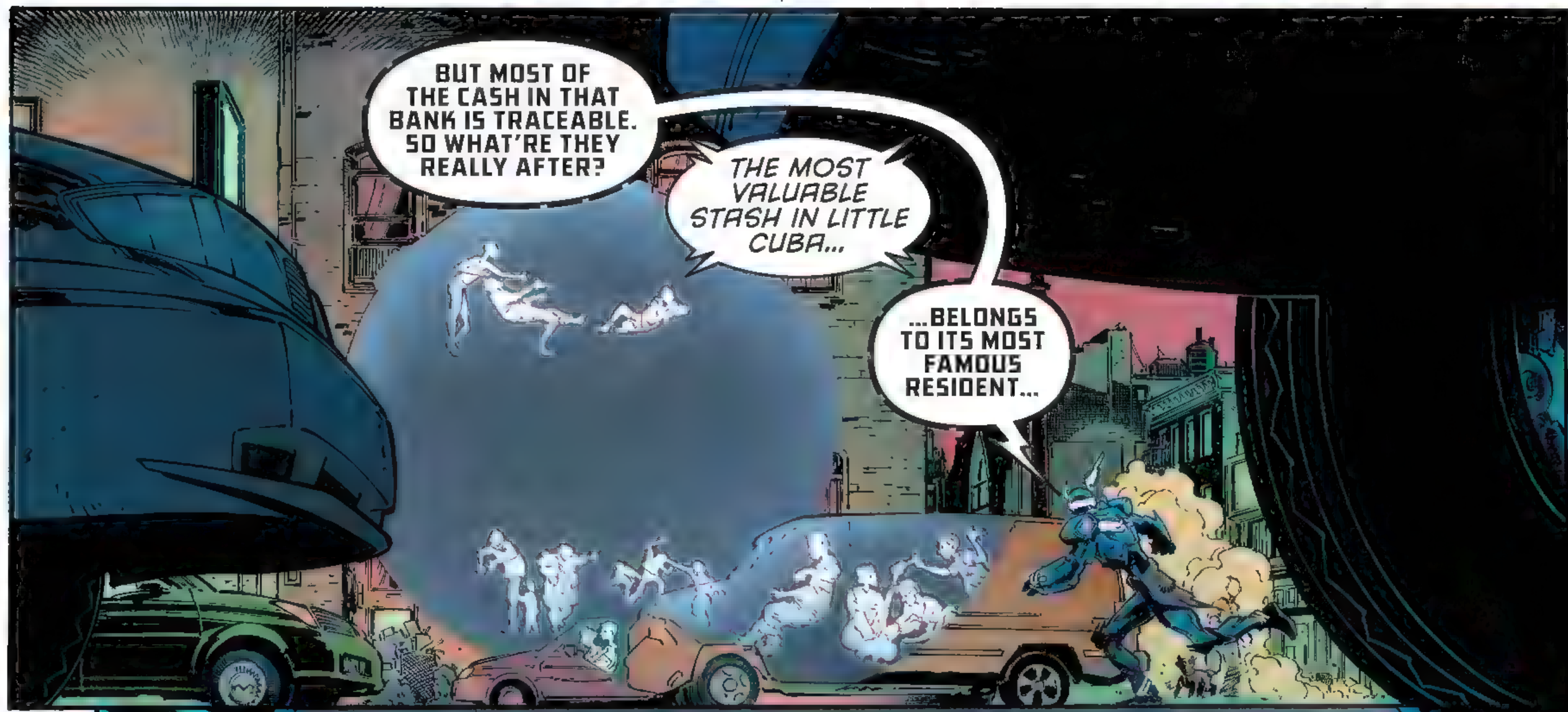
UNH!  
SOMEONE  
STEALING  
HOME!

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND,  
IF--



THE MONSTER  
IS AN EXTENSION  
OF A PARTICULAR  
CRIMINAL. AND WHAT  
DO WE KNOW  
ABOUT THEM?

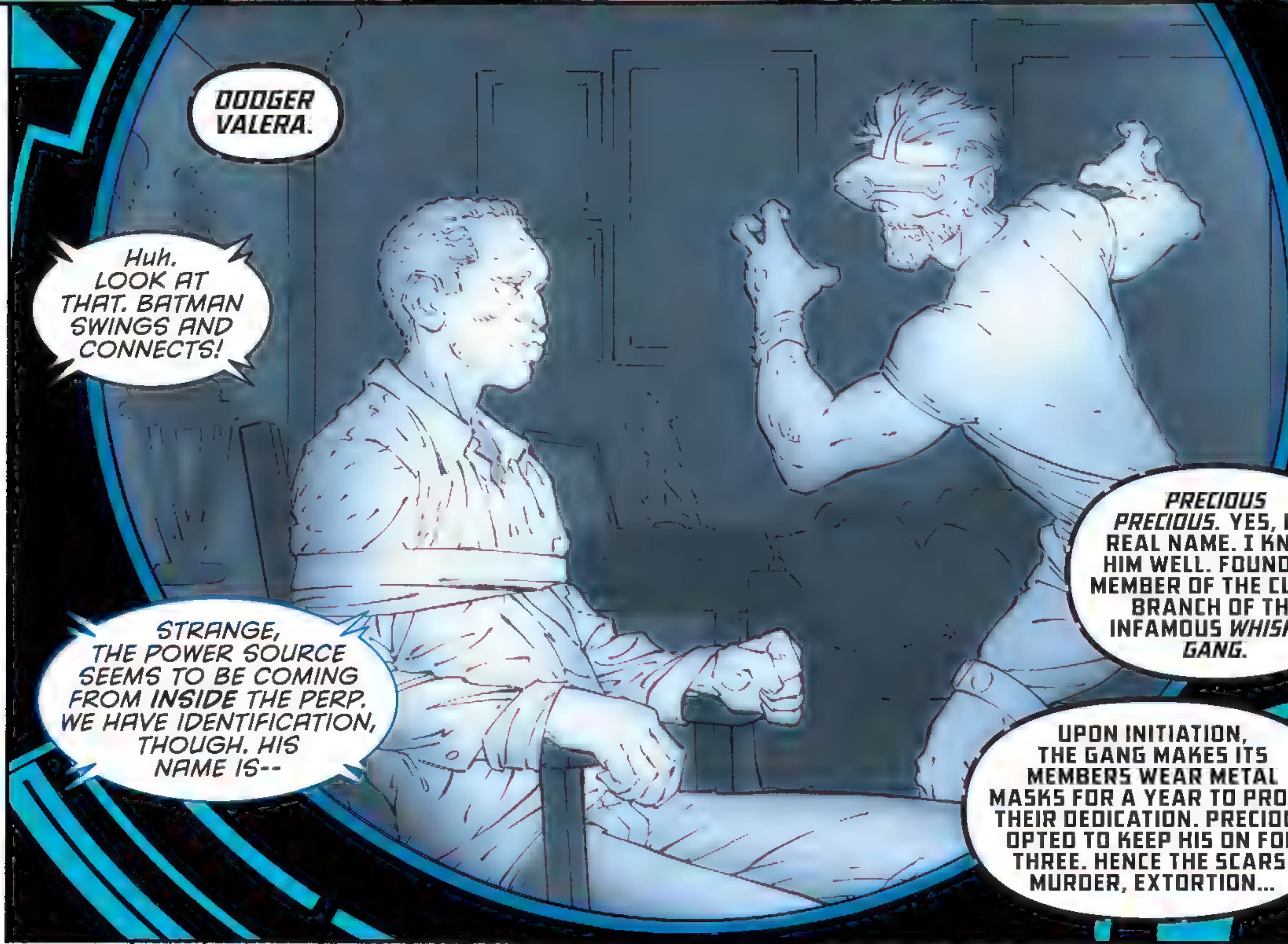
THEY WERE  
ATTACKING A  
BANK.



BUT MOST OF  
THE CASH IN THAT  
BANK IS TRACEABLE.  
SO WHAT'RE THEY  
REALLY AFTER?

THE MOST  
VALUABLE  
STASH IN LITTLE  
CUBA...

...BELONGS  
TO ITS MOST  
FAMOUS  
RESIDENT...



DODGER  
VALERA.

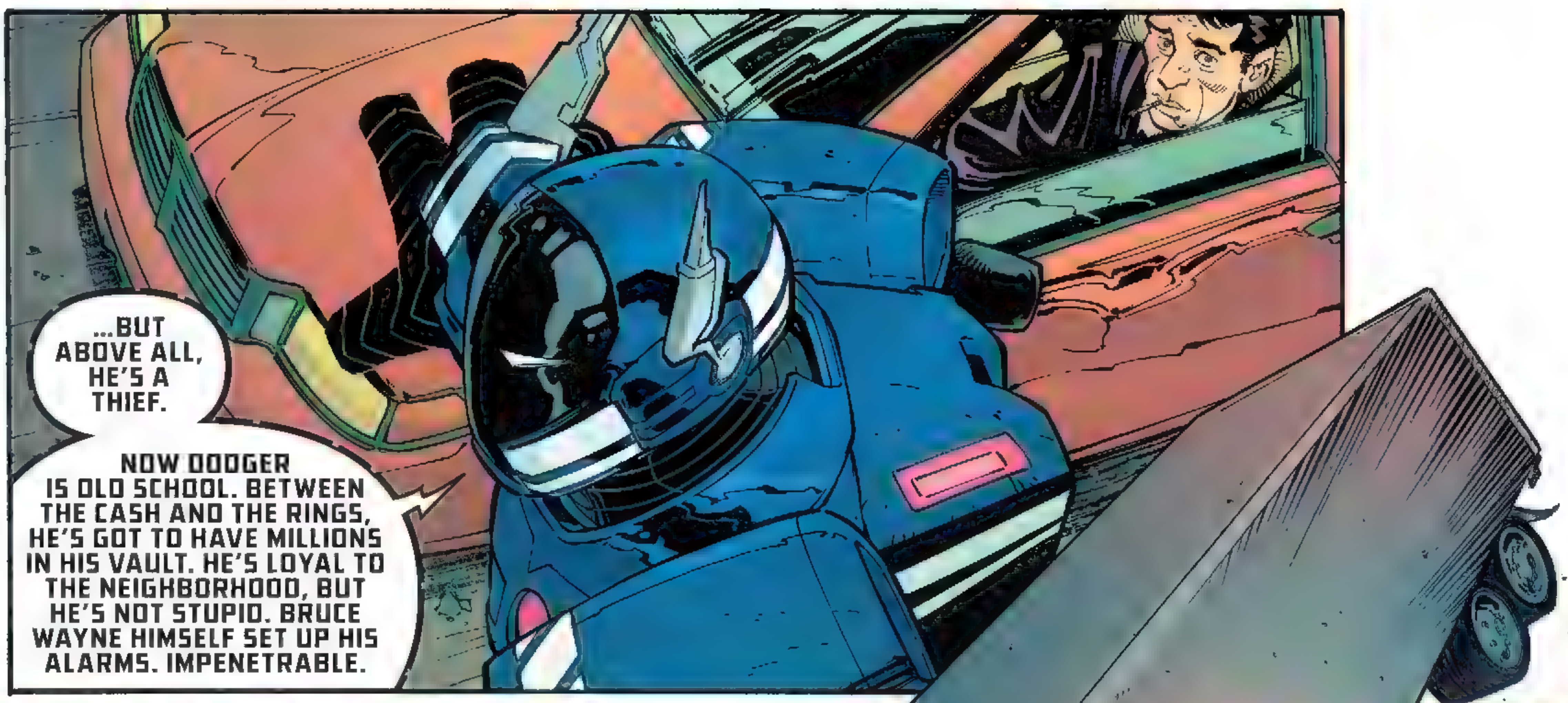
Huh.  
LOOK AT  
THAT. BATMAN  
SWINGS AND  
CONNECTS!

STRANGE,  
THE POWER SOURCE  
SEEMS TO BE COMING  
FROM INSIDE THE PERP.  
WE HAVE IDENTIFICATION,  
THOUGH. HIS  
NAME IS--

PRECIOUS  
PRECIOUS. YES, HIS  
REAL NAME. I KNOW  
HIM WELL. FOUNDING  
MEMBER OF THE CUBAN  
BRANCH OF THE  
INFAMOUS WHISPER  
GANG.

UPON INITIATION,  
THE GANG MAKES ITS  
MEMBERS WEAR METAL  
MASKS FOR A YEAR TO PROVE  
THEIR DEDICATION. PRECIOUS  
OPTED TO KEEP HIS ON FOR  
THREE. HENCE THE SCARS.  
MURDER, EXTORTION...





...BUT  
ABOVE ALL,  
HE'S A  
THIEF.

NOW DODGER  
IS OLD SCHOOL. BETWEEN  
THE CASH AND THE RINGS,  
HE'S GOT TO HAVE MILLIONS  
IN HIS VAULT. HE'S LOYAL TO  
THE NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT  
HE'S NOT STUPID. BRUCE  
WAYNE HIMSELF SET UP HIS  
ALARMS. IMPENETRABLE.

BATMAN!

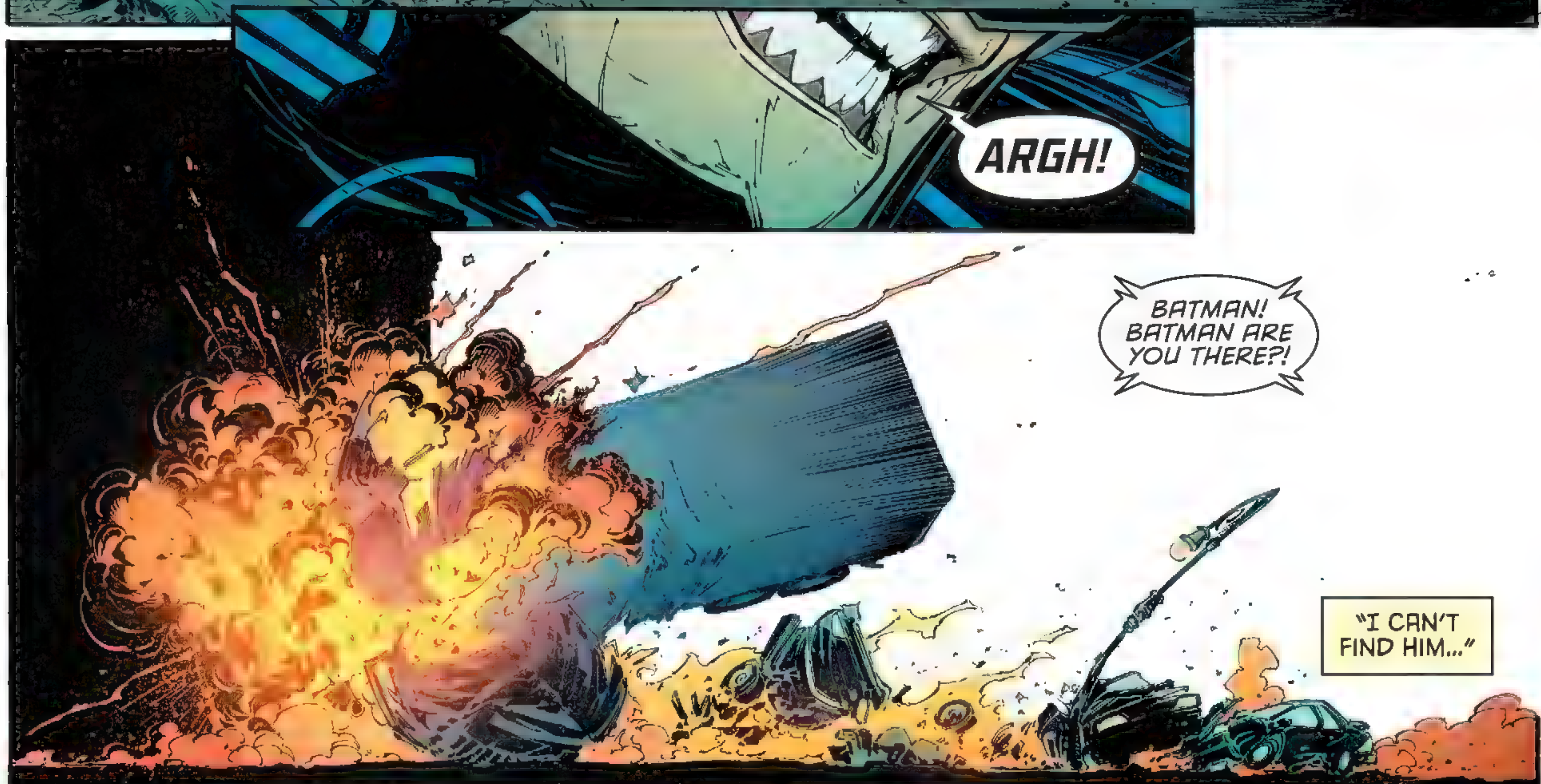
THOSE ALARMS  
ARE GOING OFF  
RIGHT NOW, BUT  
NO ONE IS NOTICING.  
NOT WITH ALL THE  
RUCKUS GOING  
ON OUT--



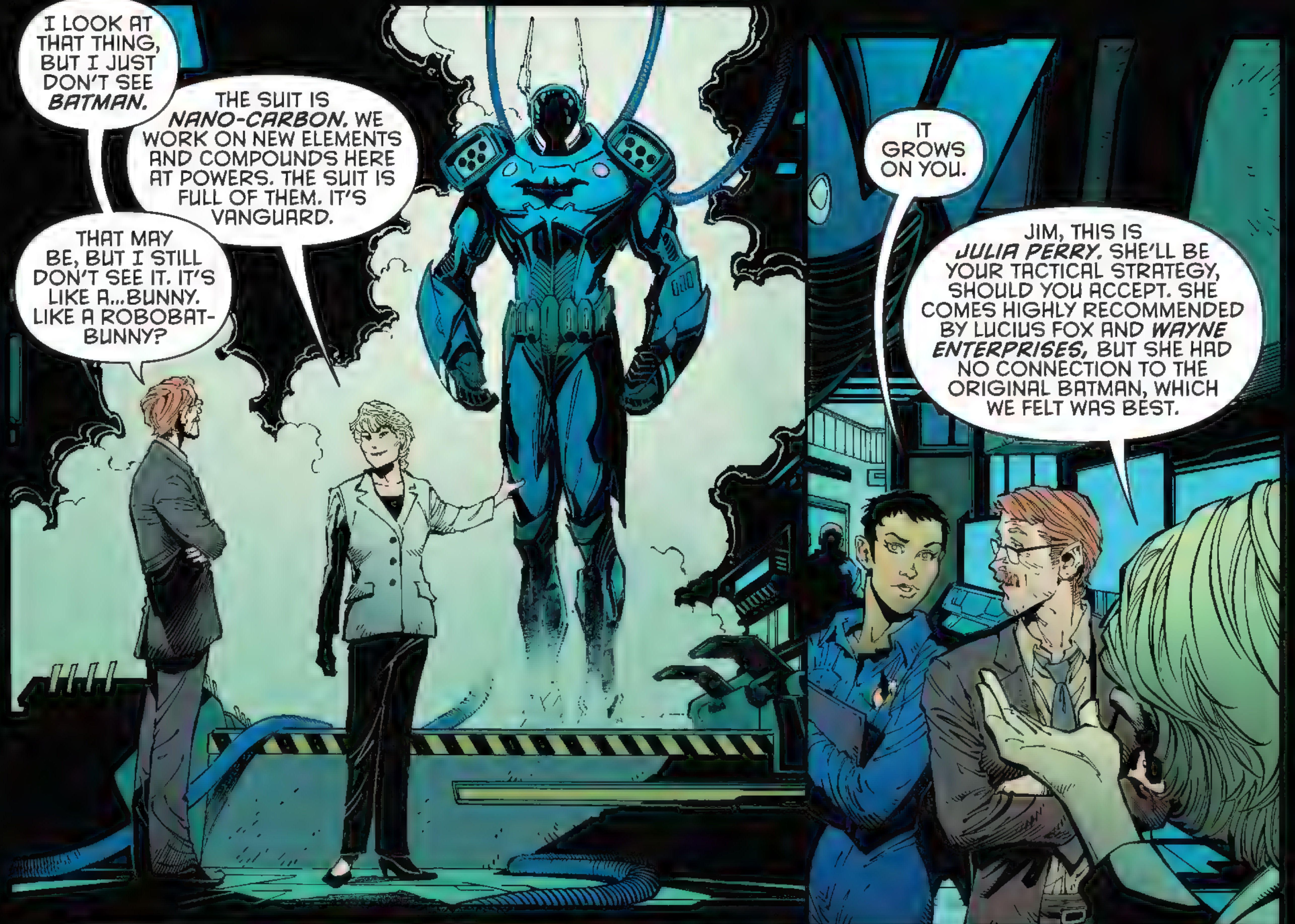
ARGH!

BATMAN!  
BATMAN ARE  
YOU THERE?!

"I CAN'T  
FIND HIM..."







I LOOK AT THAT THING, BUT I JUST DON'T SEE **BATMAN**.

THE SUIT IS **NANO-CARBON**. WE WORK ON NEW ELEMENTS AND COMPOUNDS HERE AT POWERS. THE SUIT IS FULL OF THEM. IT'S **VANGUARD**.

THAT MAY BE, BUT I STILL DON'T SEE IT. IT'S LIKE A...**BUNNY**. LIKE A **ROBOBAT-BUNNY**?

IT GROWS ON YOU.

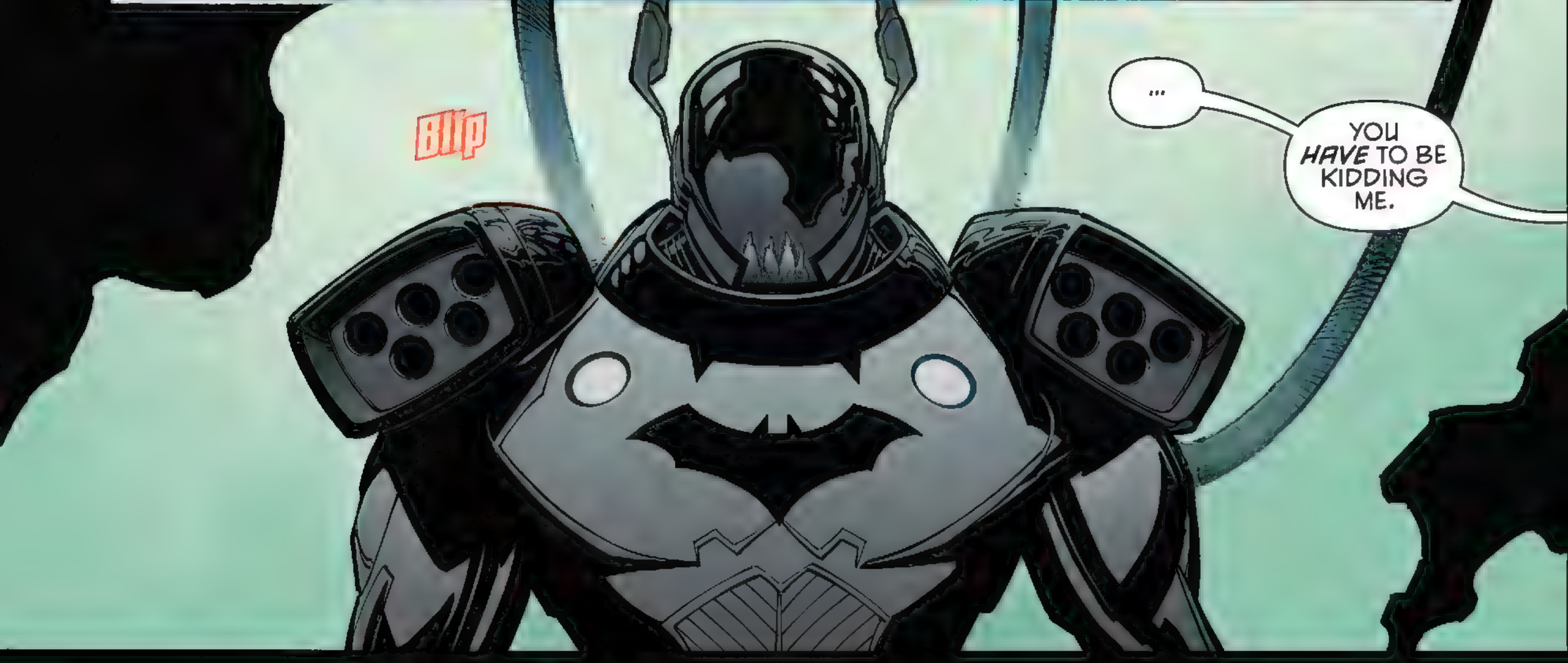
JIM, THIS IS **JULIA PERRY**. SHE'LL BE YOUR TACTICAL STRATEGY, SHOULD YOU ACCEPT. SHE COMES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY **LUCIUS FOX** AND **WAYNE ENTERPRISES**, BUT SHE HAD NO CONNECTION TO THE ORIGINAL **BATMAN**, WHICH WE FELT WAS BEST.



WAIT. IS IT THE SUIT'S **COLORS** YOU DON'T LIKE?

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT. THIS IS **DARYL GUTIERREZ**. HE'S LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUIT'S **DESIGN**. WINNER OF THE CROWNE YOUNG GENIUS GRANT.

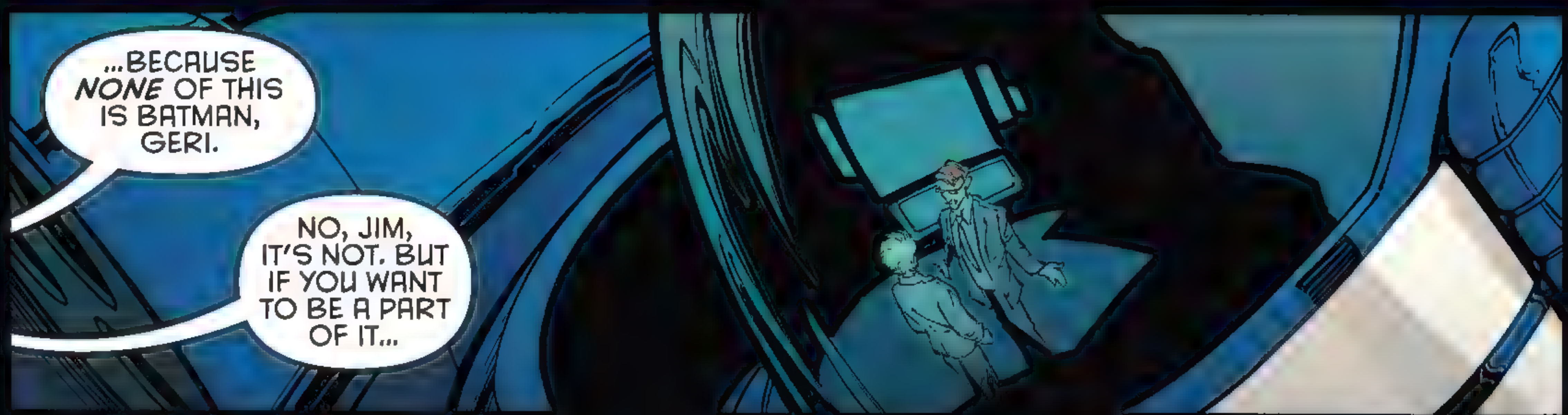
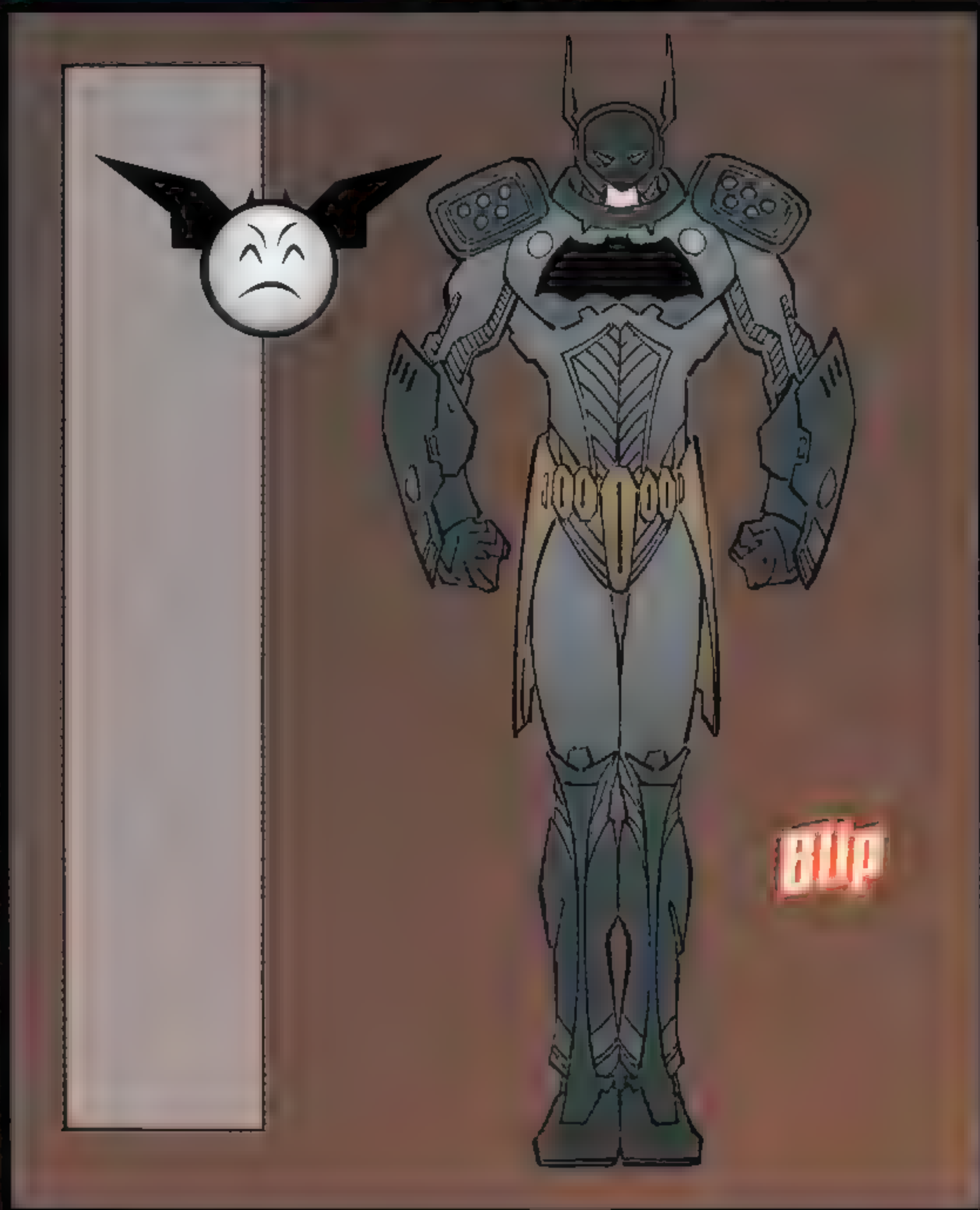
IF IT'S THE **COLORS**, I CAN CHANGE THEM. SEE?



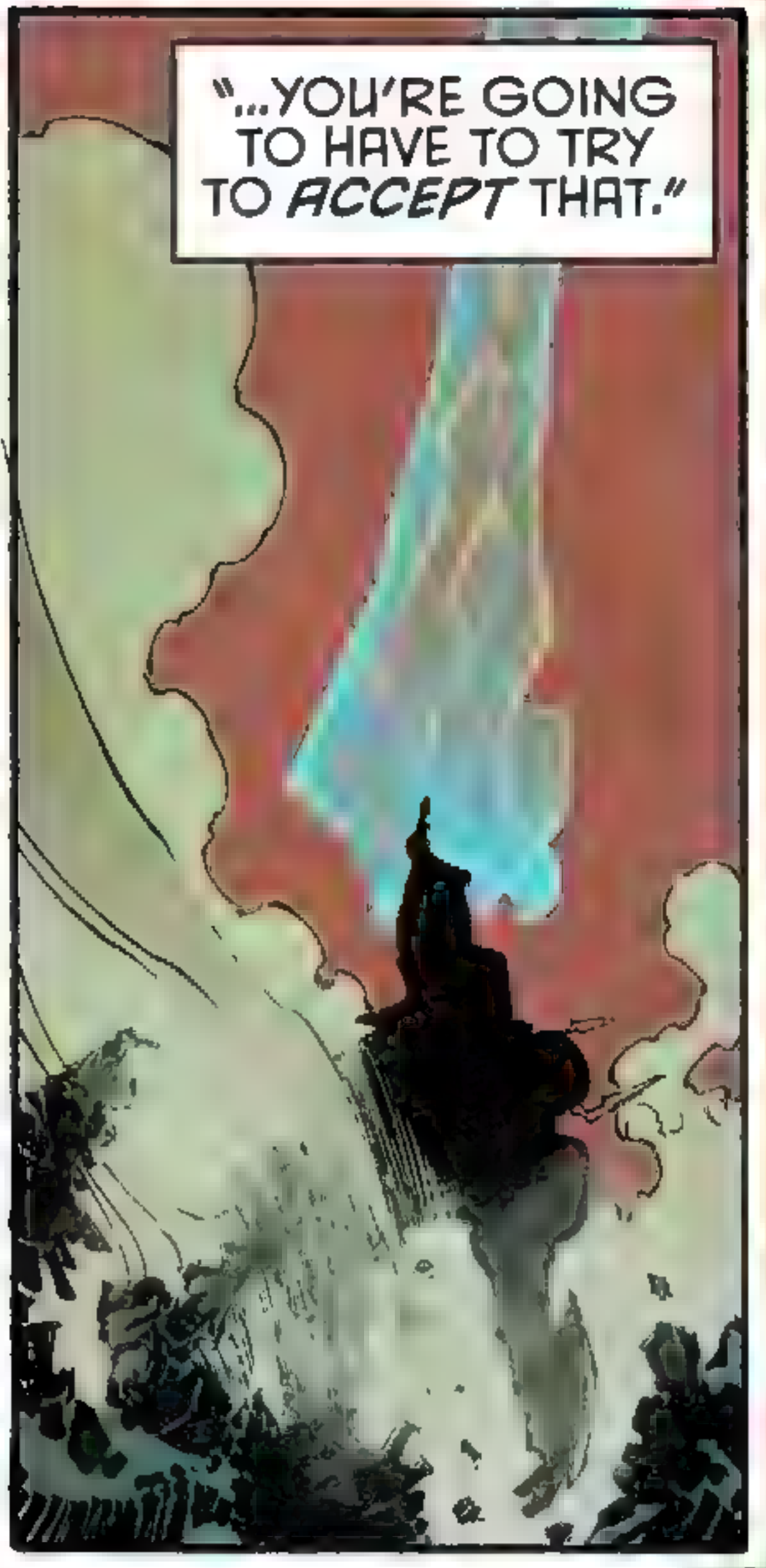
...

YOU **HAVE** TO BE KIDDING ME.









"...YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRY TO *ACCEPT* THAT."



HA! GOT YOU! AND NOW, DOWN WITH FALSE IDOLS.



FALSE IDOLS?

AT LEAST HE'S TRYING TO DO *GOOD*. LOOK AT YOU... YOU'RE A DISGRACE. *-COUGH-* A HUMAN ZERO. NOTHING.

Huh. AND HERE I WAS GOING TO LET YOU LIVE...

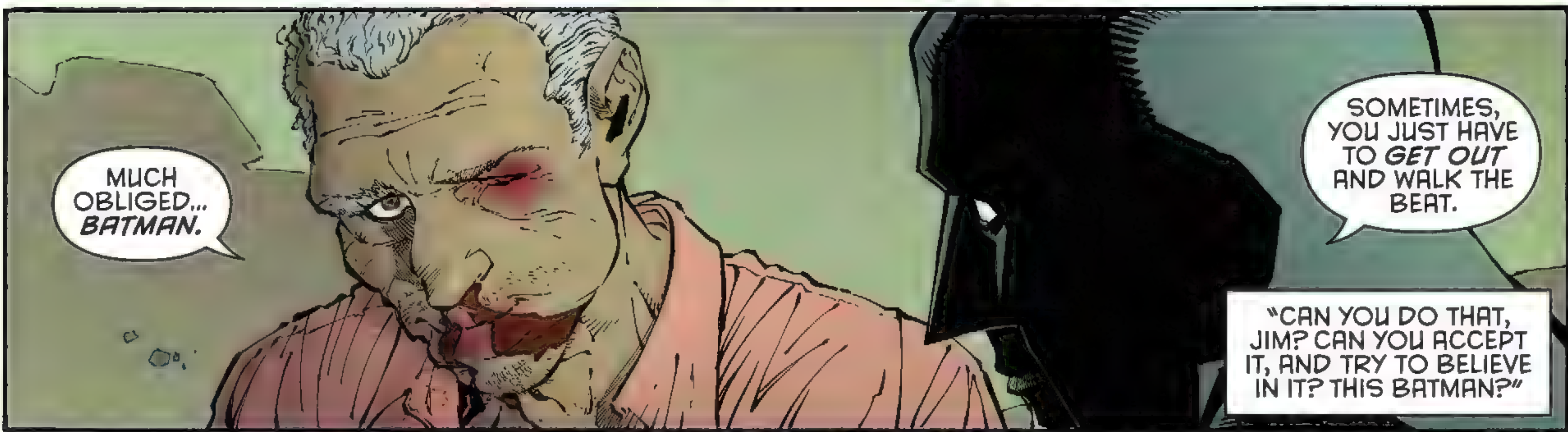


WHERE'S YOUR HERO NOW, EH? THAT THING OUTSIDE? IT'S JUST METAL AND LIGHTS.

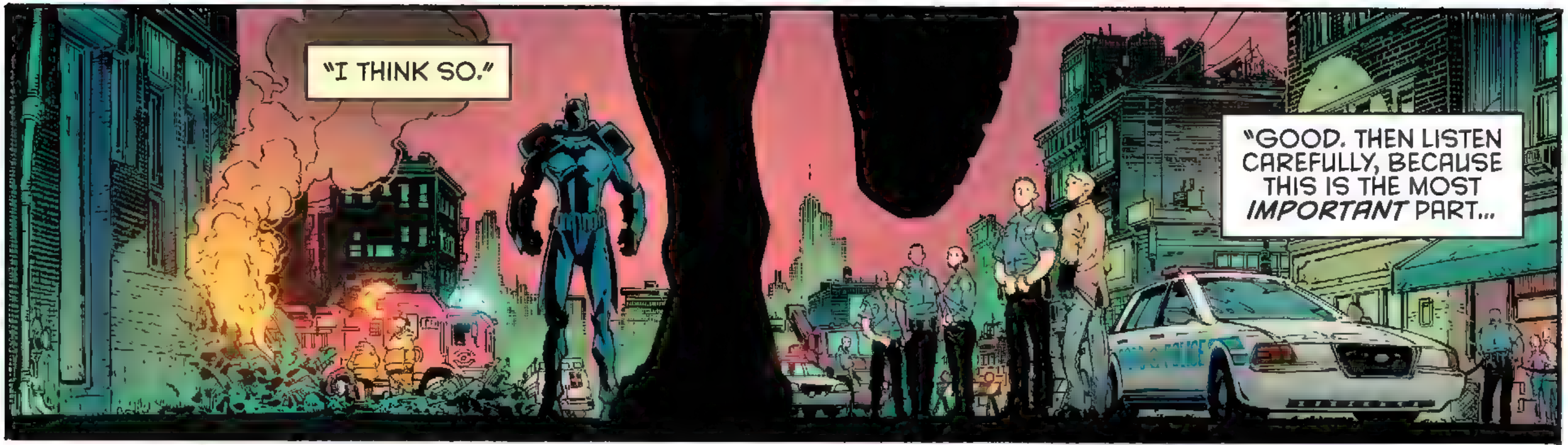
IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE BATMAN. NOT ONE B--





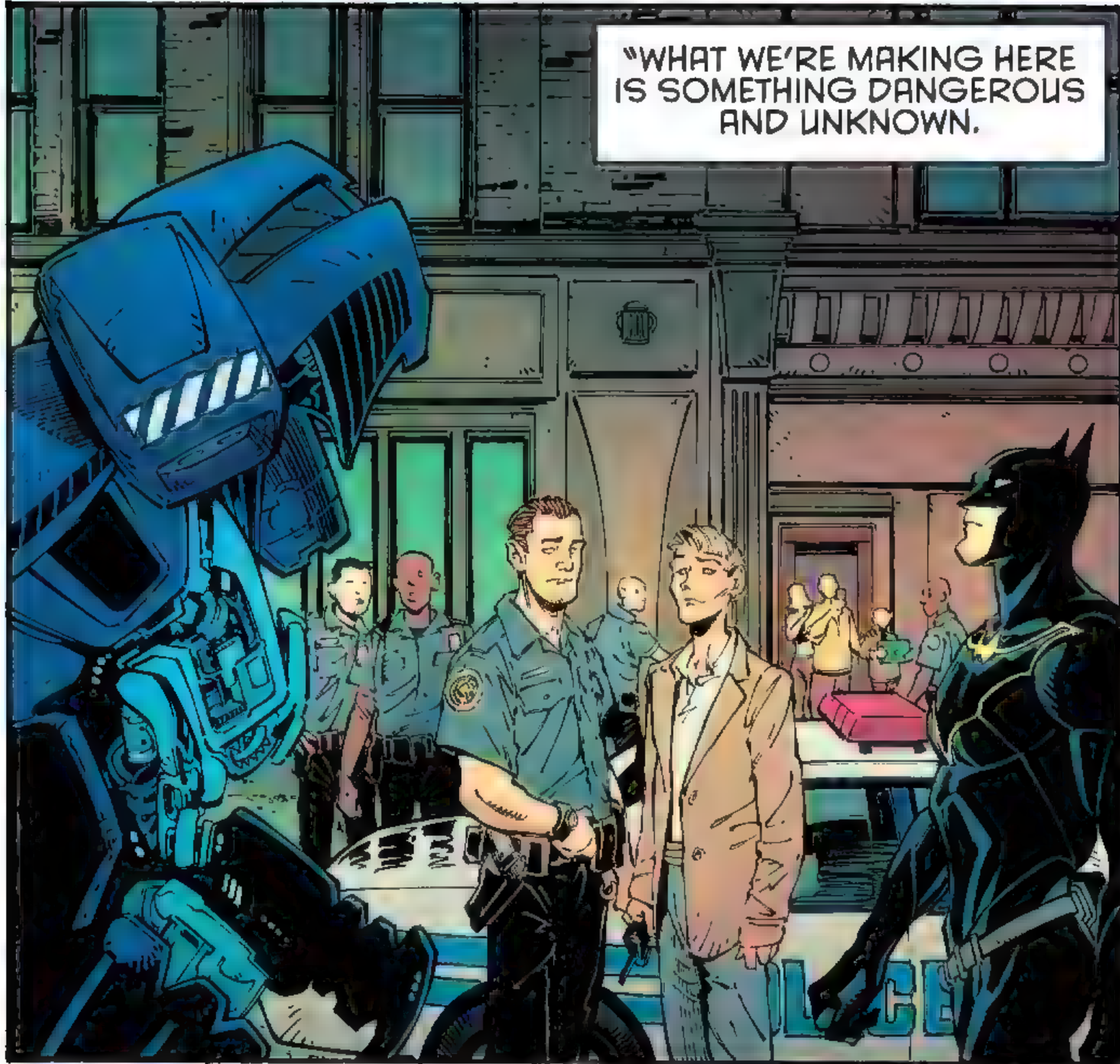






"I THINK SO."

"GOOD. THEN LISTEN CAREFULLY, BECAUSE THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART..."



"WHAT WE'RE MAKING HERE IS SOMETHING DANGEROUS AND UNKNOWN."



"YOU WILL BE A NEW BATMAN, IF YOU DO THIS, JIM."



"YOU WON'T *BE* POLICE, YOU'LL WORK WITH THEM. WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE PEOPLE, TOO. YOU'LL BE A BATMAN THAT HAS CHECKS AND BALANCES."

"YOU'LL BE A *BETTER* BATMAN, BETTER FOR THIS GOTHAM, THIS MOMENT."



"SOMETHING INSPIRING."





"NOW, THE PUBLIC WON'T KNOW YOUR IDENTITY, BUT THE FEW THAT *NEED* TO KNOW, WILL.

"YOU'LL HAVE TO TRAIN, TO *TRANSFORM* YOURSELF.

"AND YOU'LL LIVE IN AN APARTMENT IN OUR MAIN FACILITY. IT'LL BE YOUR HOME. YOUR 'CAVE.'



"SO, JIM GORDON...WHAT DO YOU SAY?"



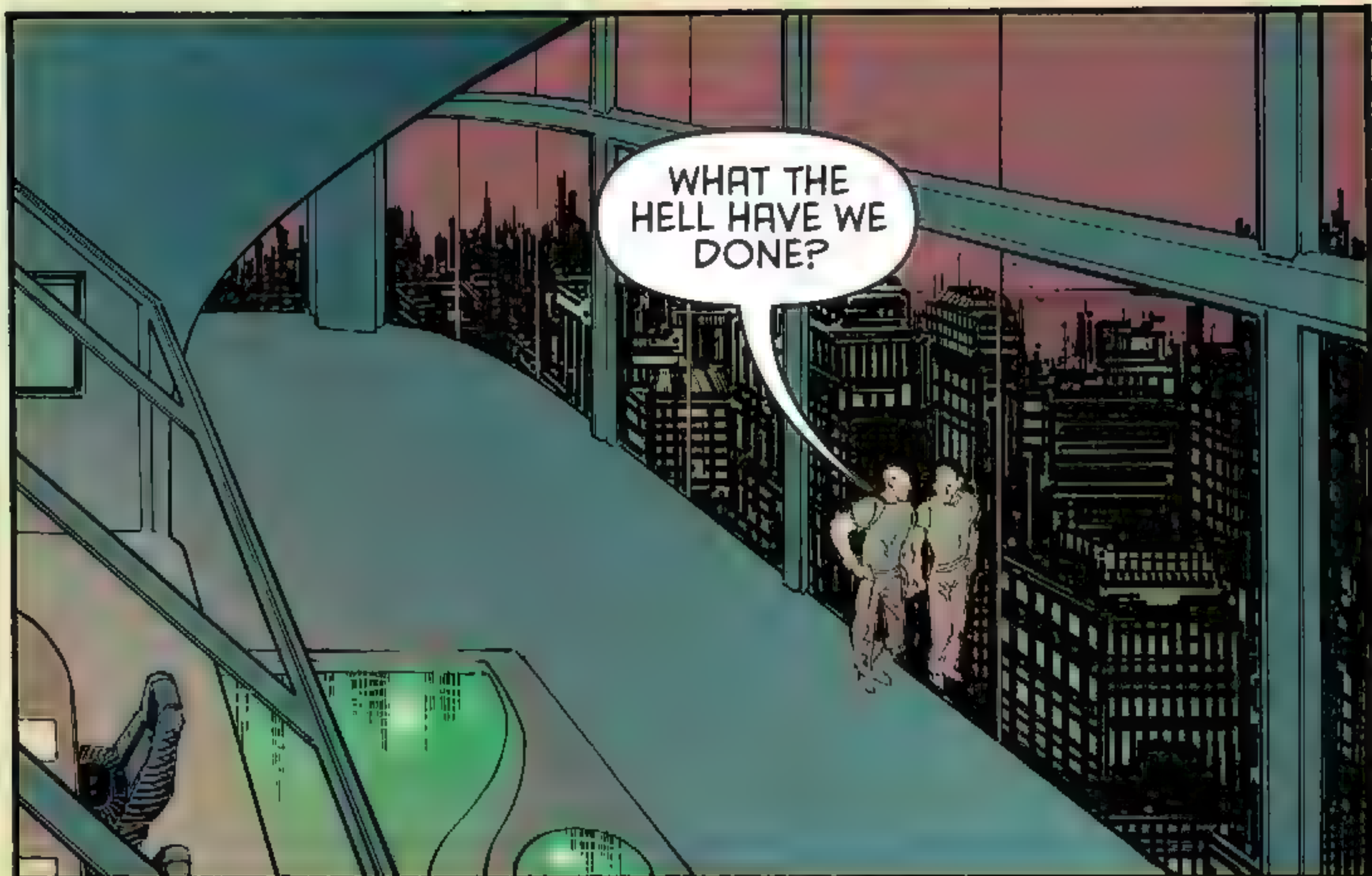
Heh.



I GUESS THEY'LL HAVE TO START MAKING THESE DAMN THINGS  
- HARV

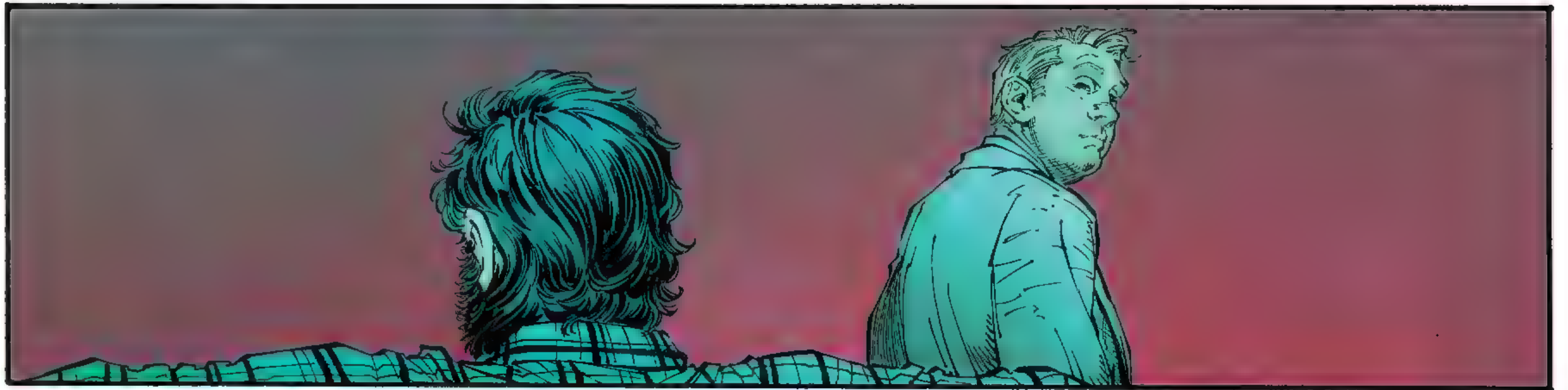
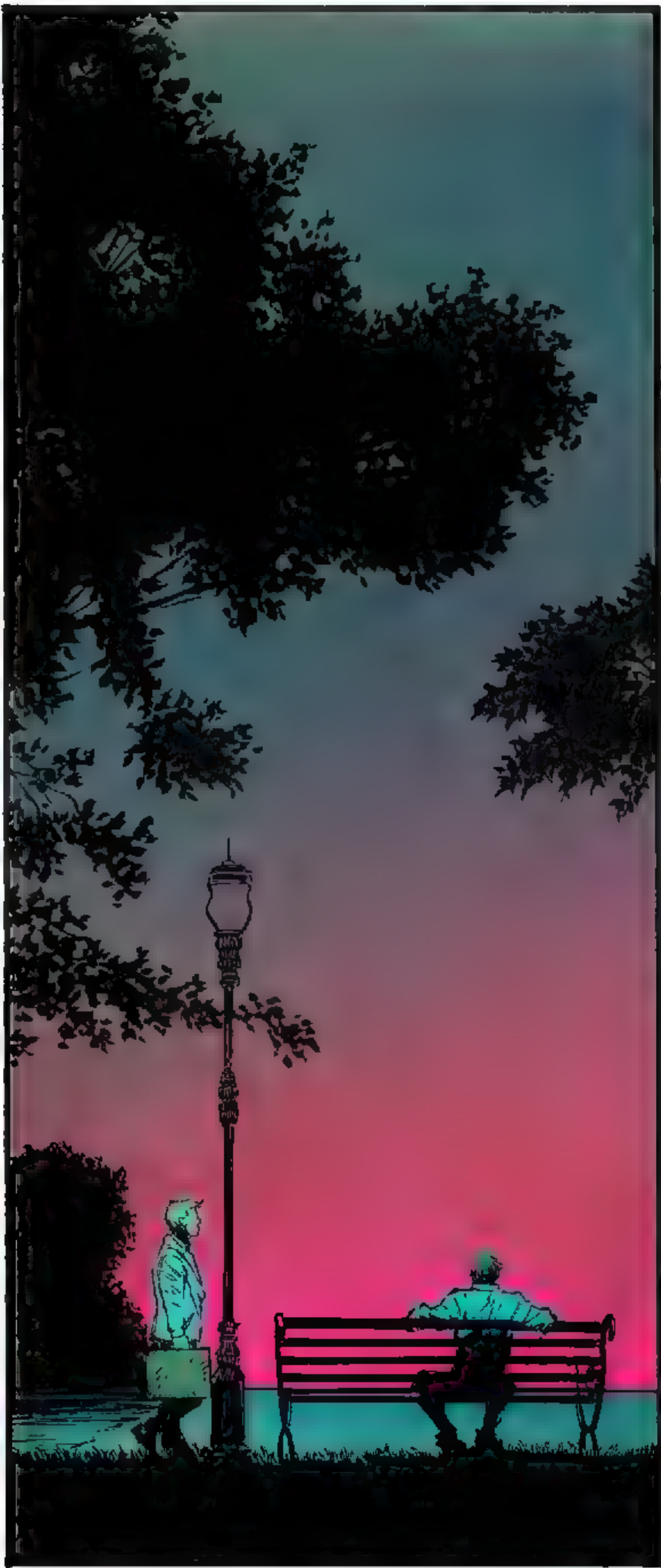
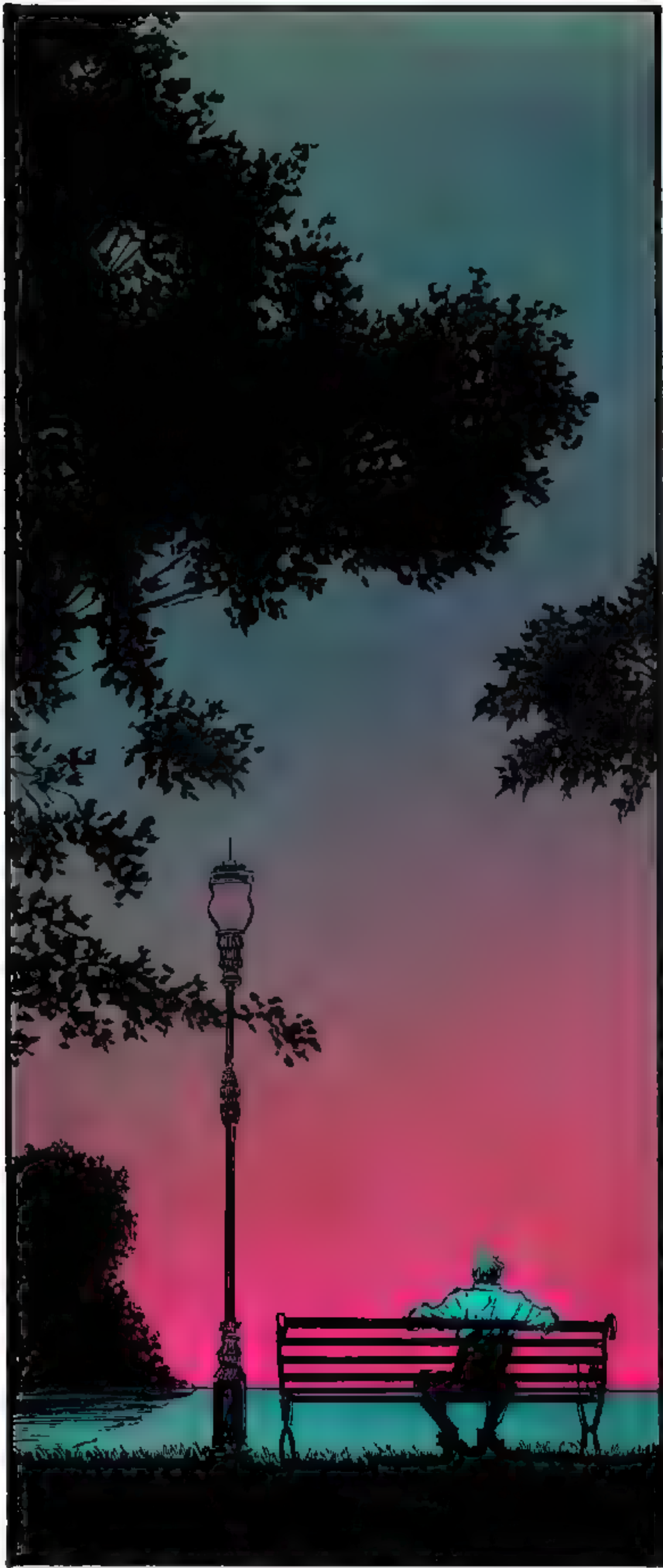


"I SAY..."



WHAT THE HELL HAVE WE DONE?









Capullo  
+fco  
15  
©





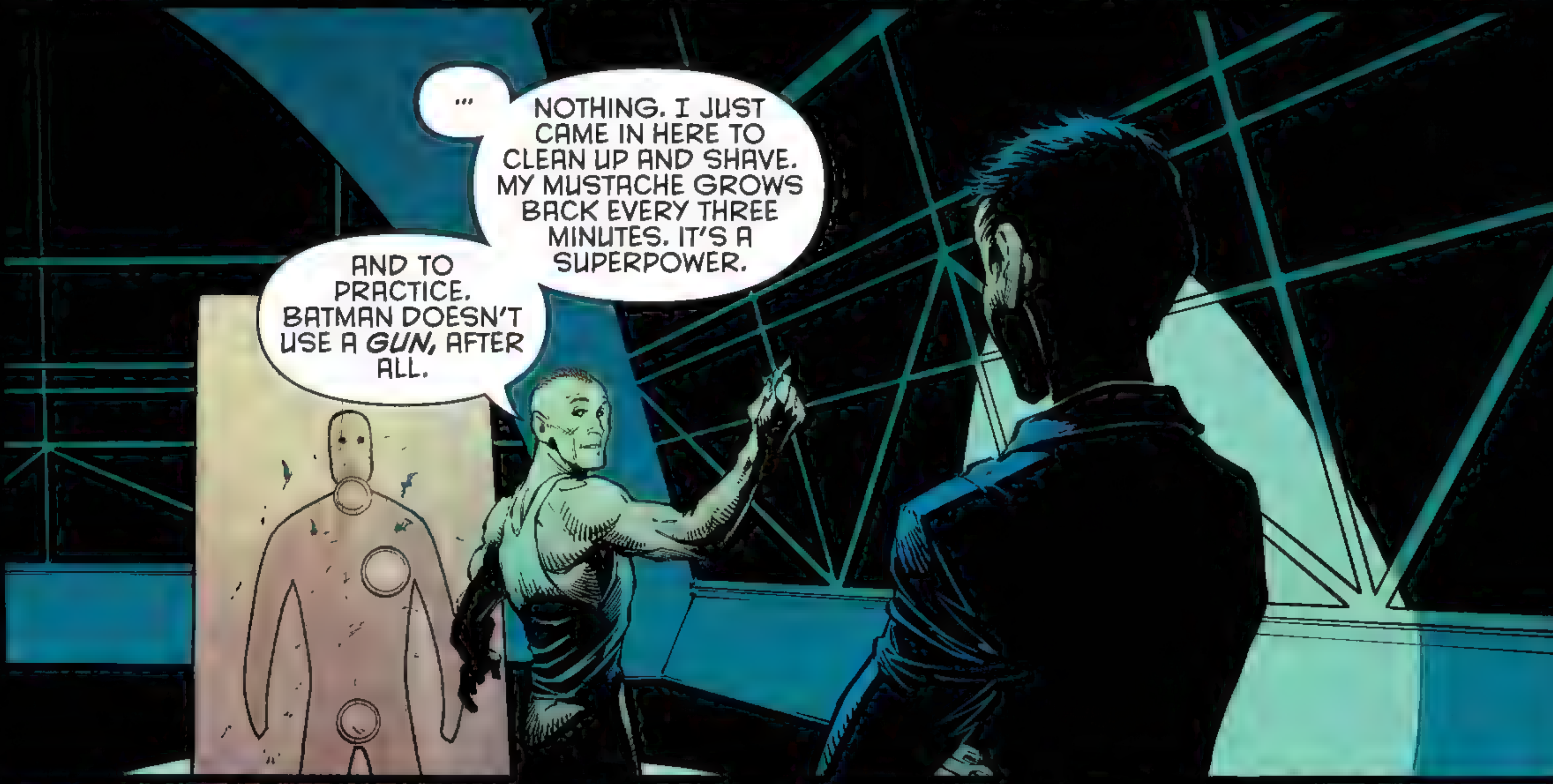
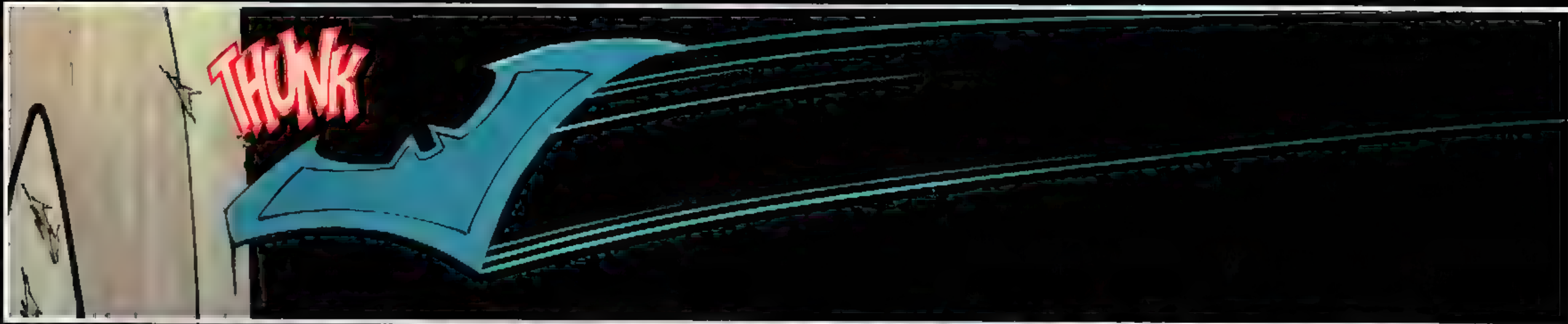


I DON'T  
CARE WHAT  
ANYONE SAYS.  
**THIS IS BATMAN.**  
THAT'S JUST  
TRUTH.

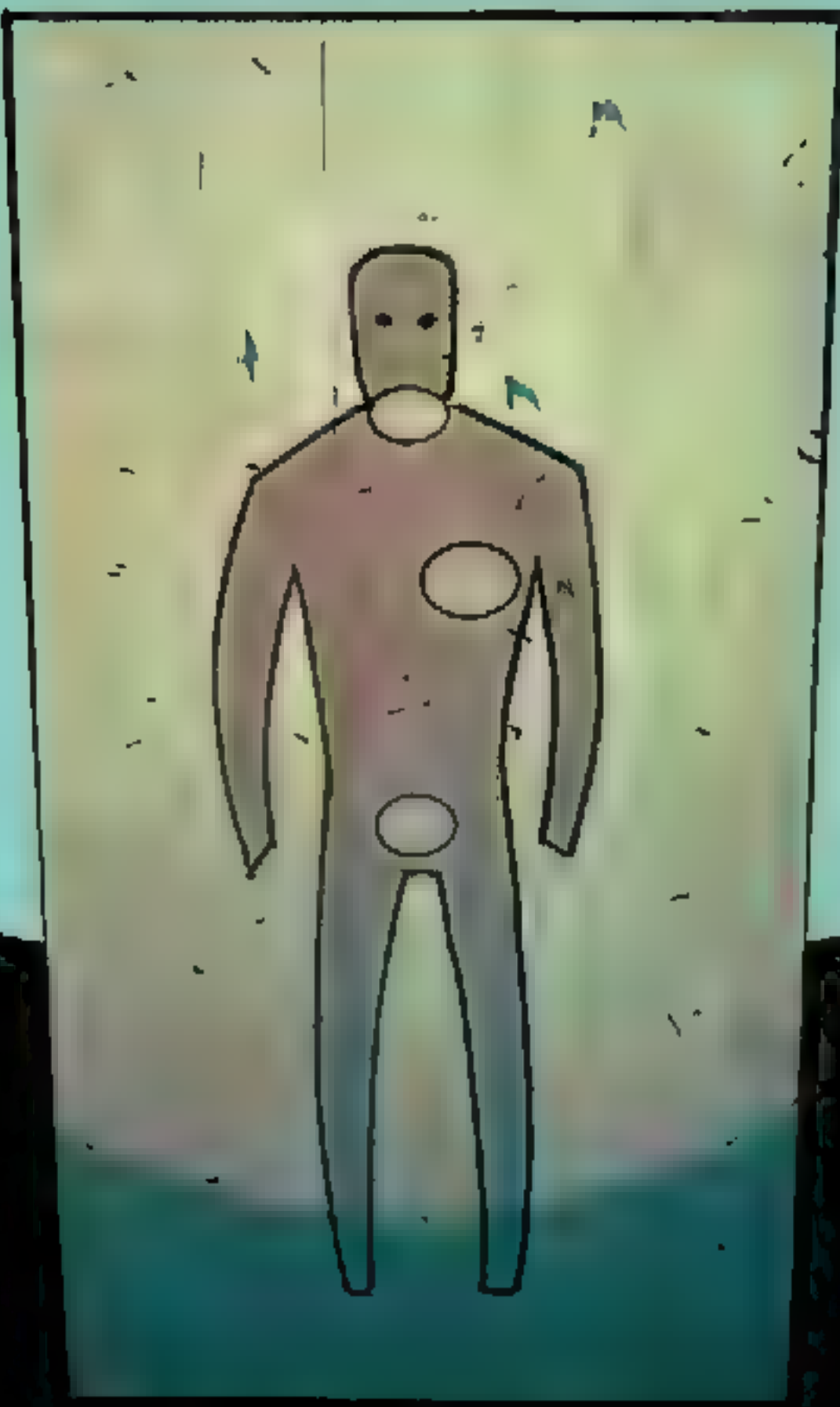
**THAT** THING?  
YOU CAN PUMP OUT  
AS MANY TOYS AS YOU  
LIKE, BUT *uh-uh*. NO.  
I MEAN, COME ON, HE  
DOESN'T EVEN HAVE  
A DAMN  
**BATMOBILE!**











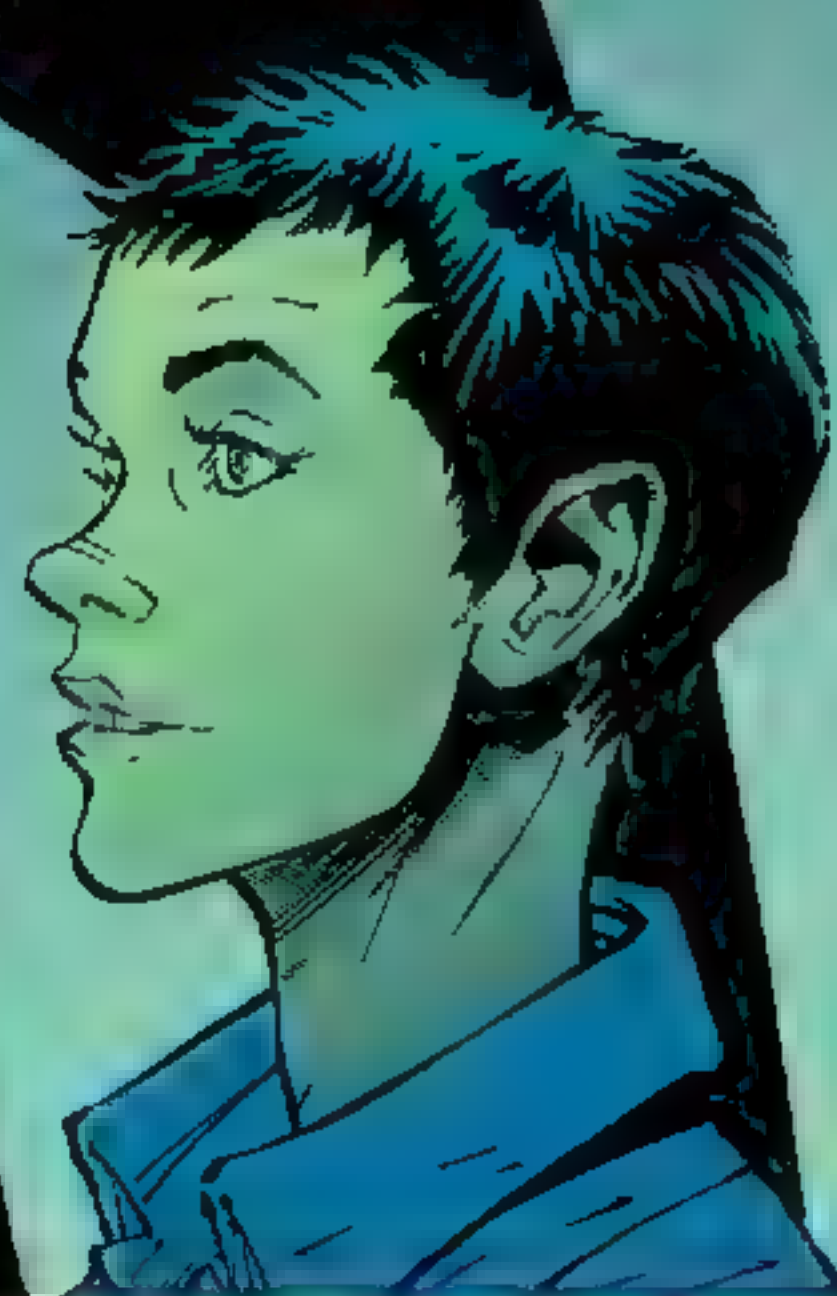
AW. ARE THOSE LITTLE HORNS? YOU ROCKSTAR.

BARBARA DREW THEM ON, FOR INSPIRATION.

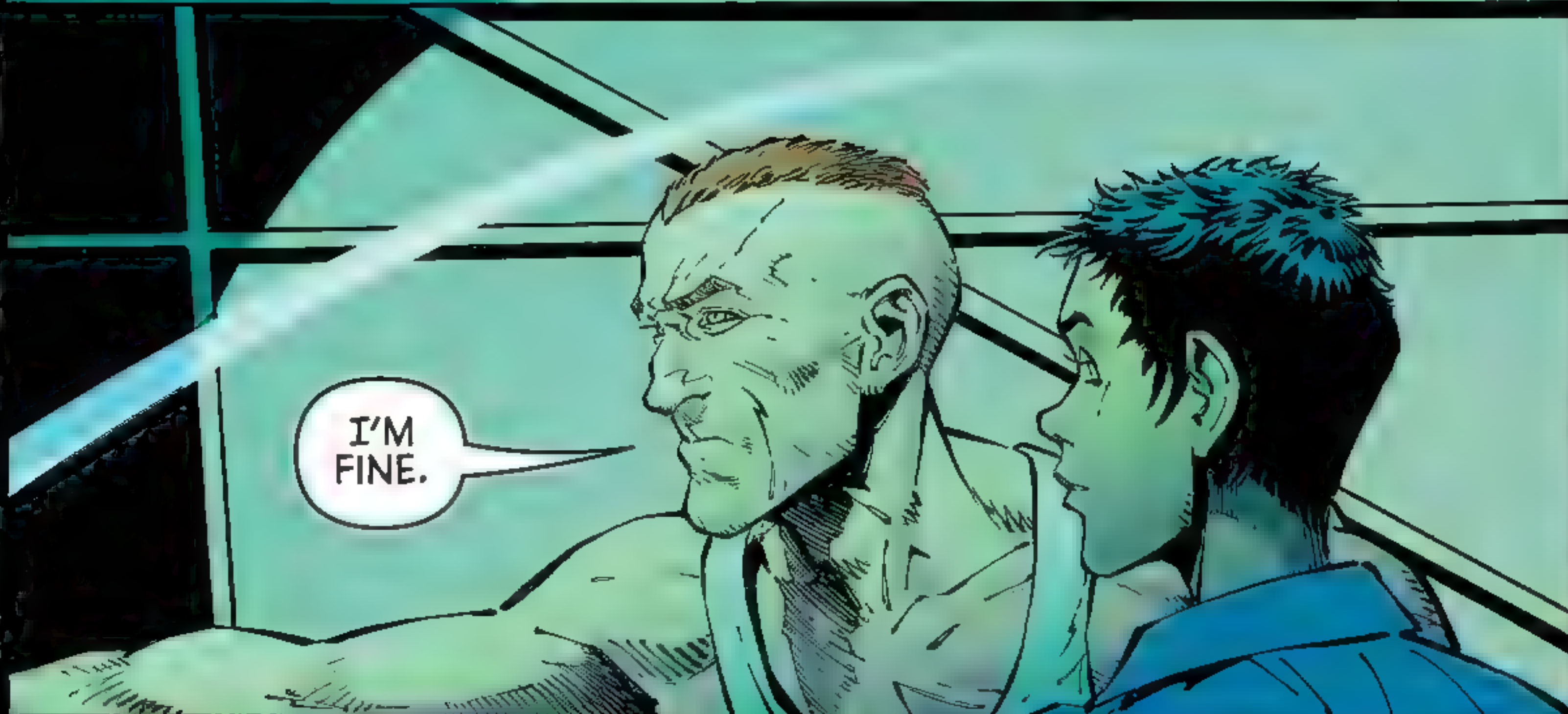


CUTE. BUT I *WASN'T* ASKING ABOUT THE SMOKING. I WAS ASKING WHETHER YOU'RE ALL RIGHT WITH WHAT YOU FOUND OUT. AT THE *MORGUE*.

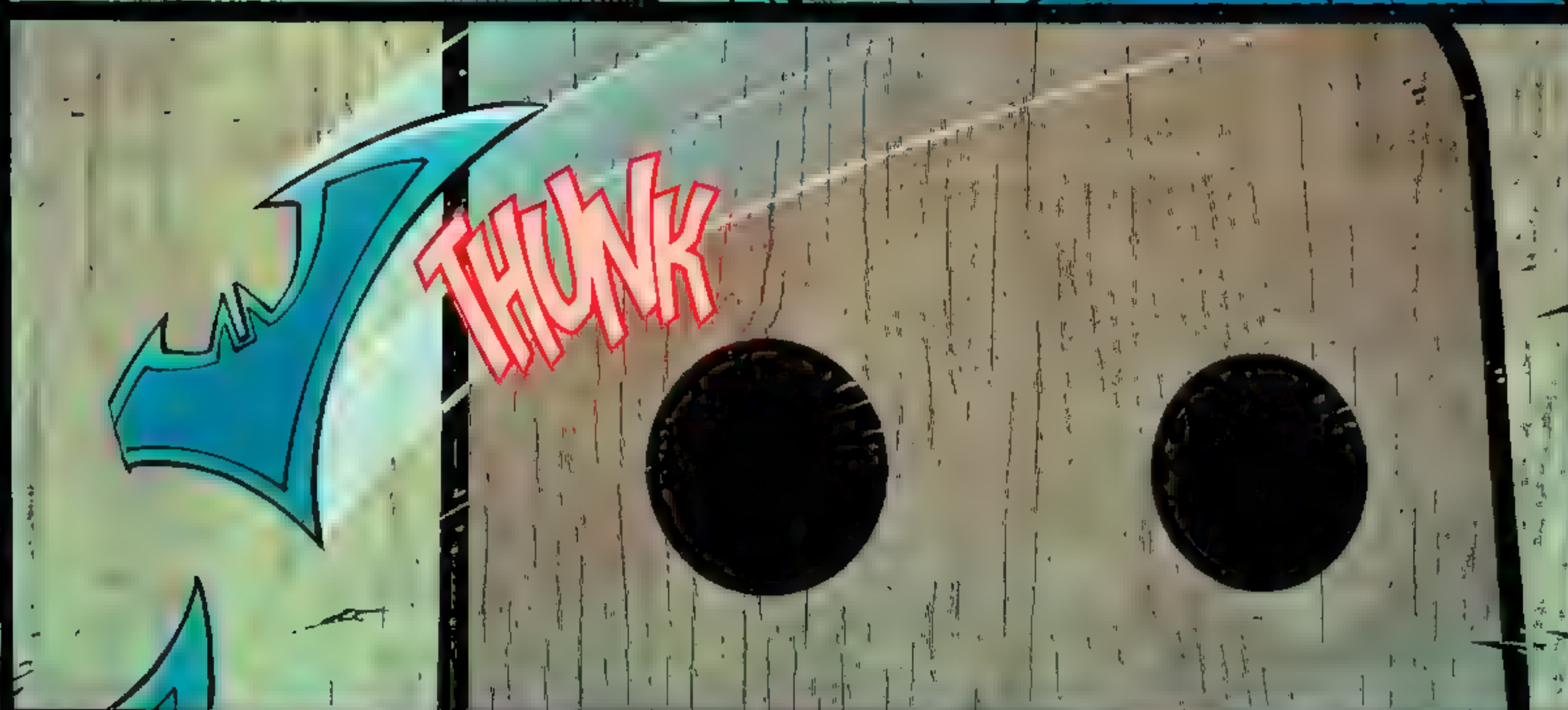
...



I'M FINE.



THUNK

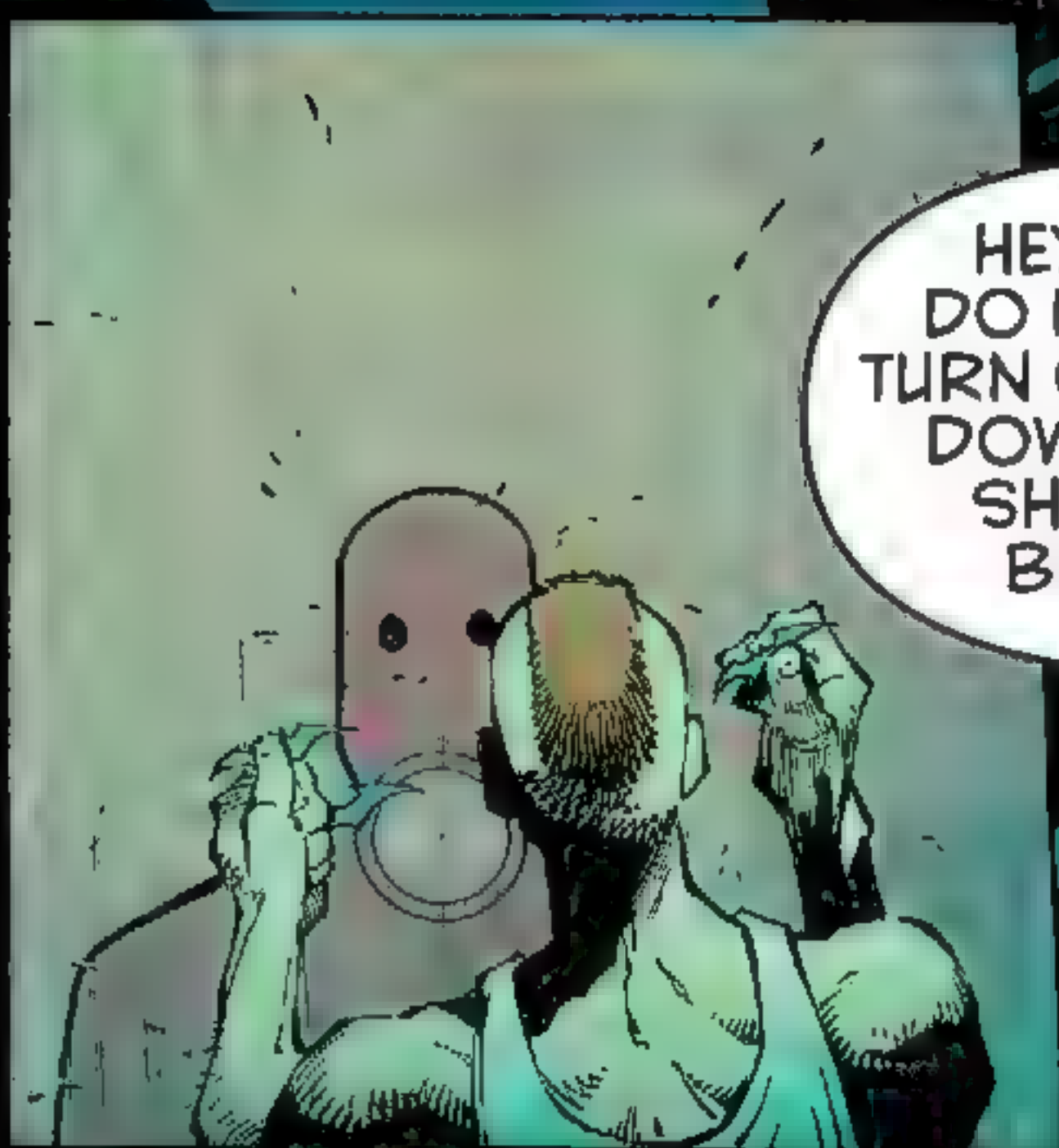
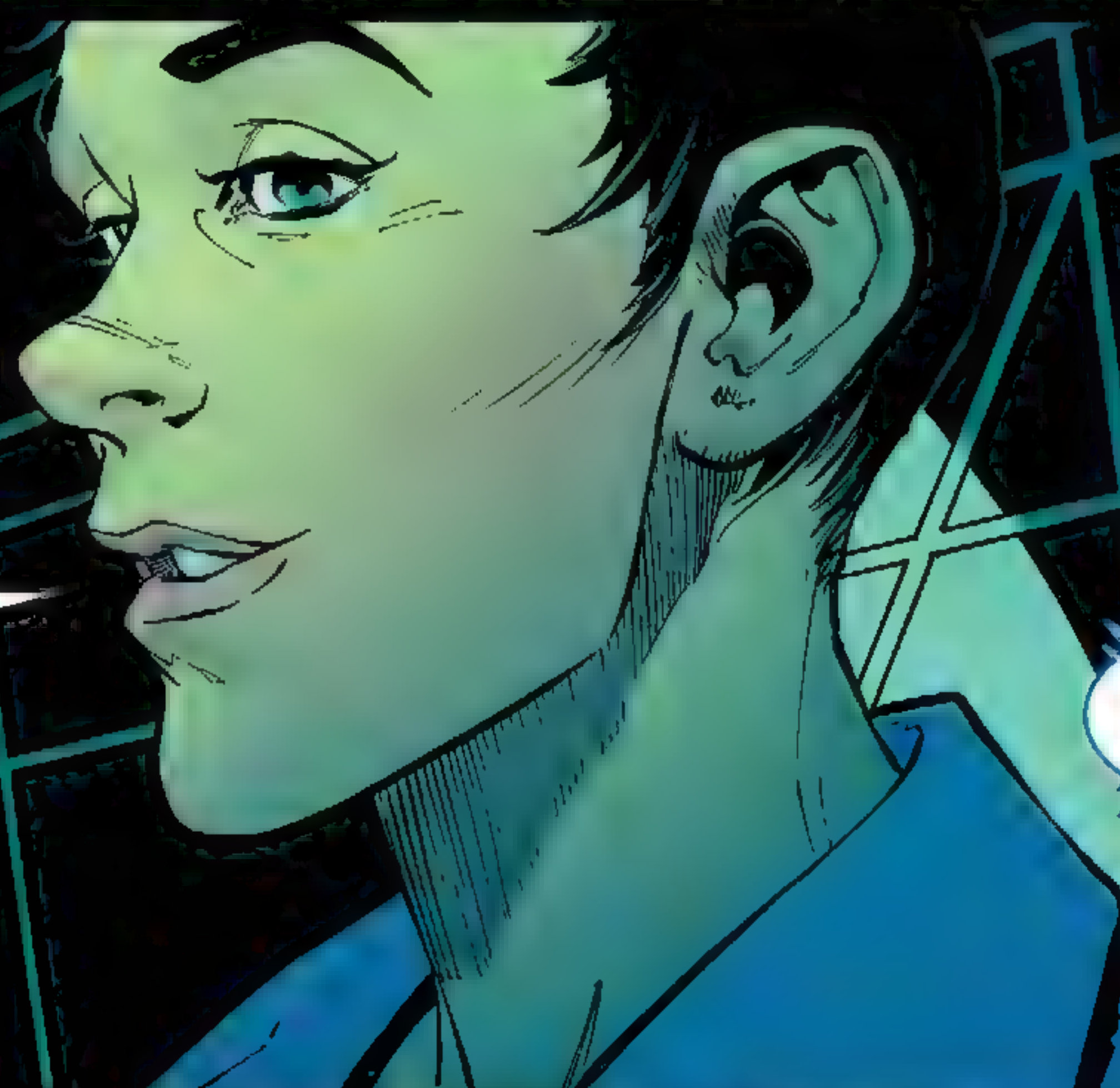


OKAY THEN.

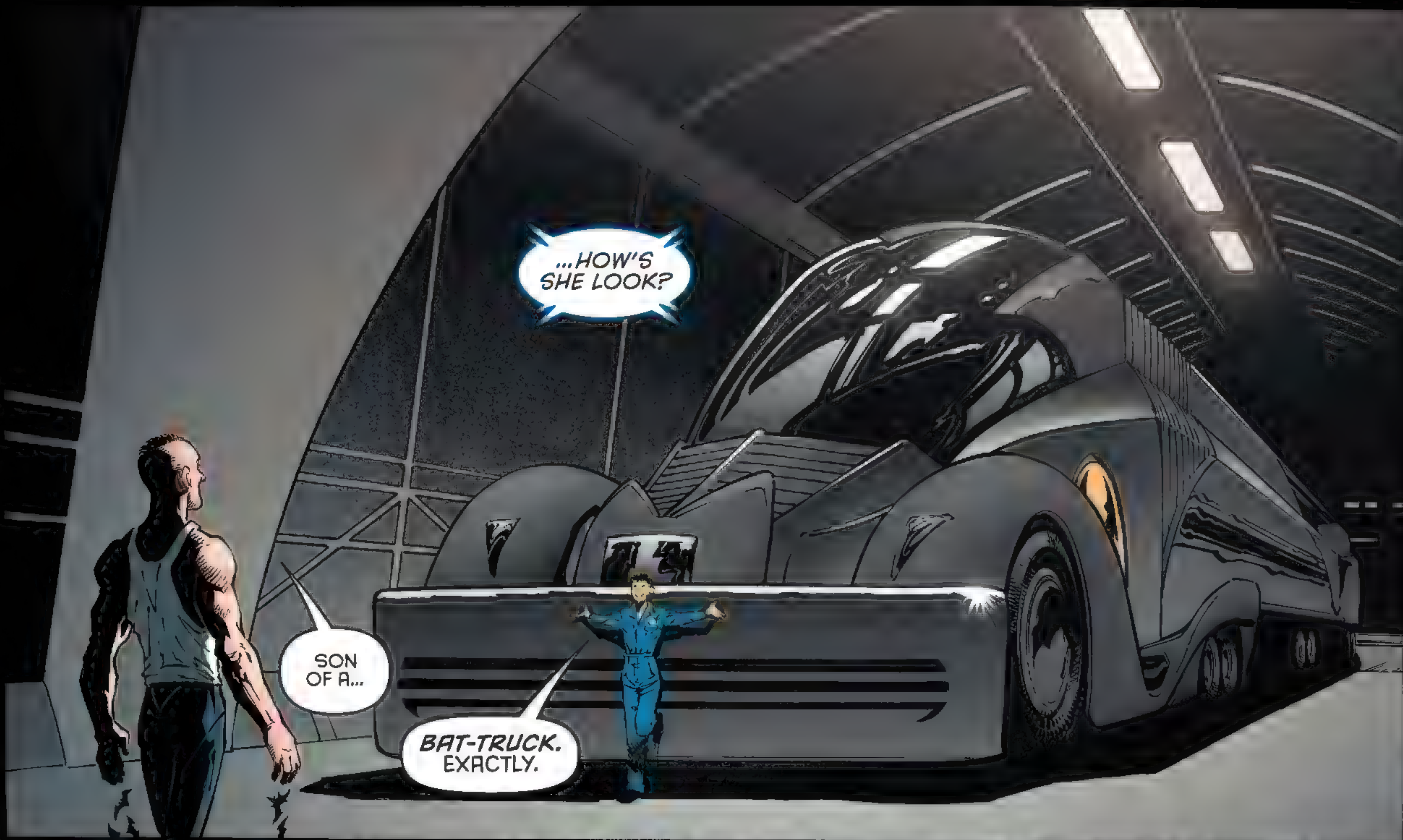
HEY, *DARYL*?! DO ME A FAVOR? TURN ON THE LIGHTS DOWN HERE AND SHOW JIM HIS BATMOBILE.

SURE THING...

KWK







...HOW'S SHE LOOK?

SON OF A...

BAT-TRUCK. EXACTLY.

YOU CAN CONTROL IT FROM YOUR SUIT, YOU KNOW. DARYL CALLS IT OUR *ROLLING CAVE*. FIFTEEN MILLION PLUS. I THINK IT'S A BIT MUCH, BUT STILL.

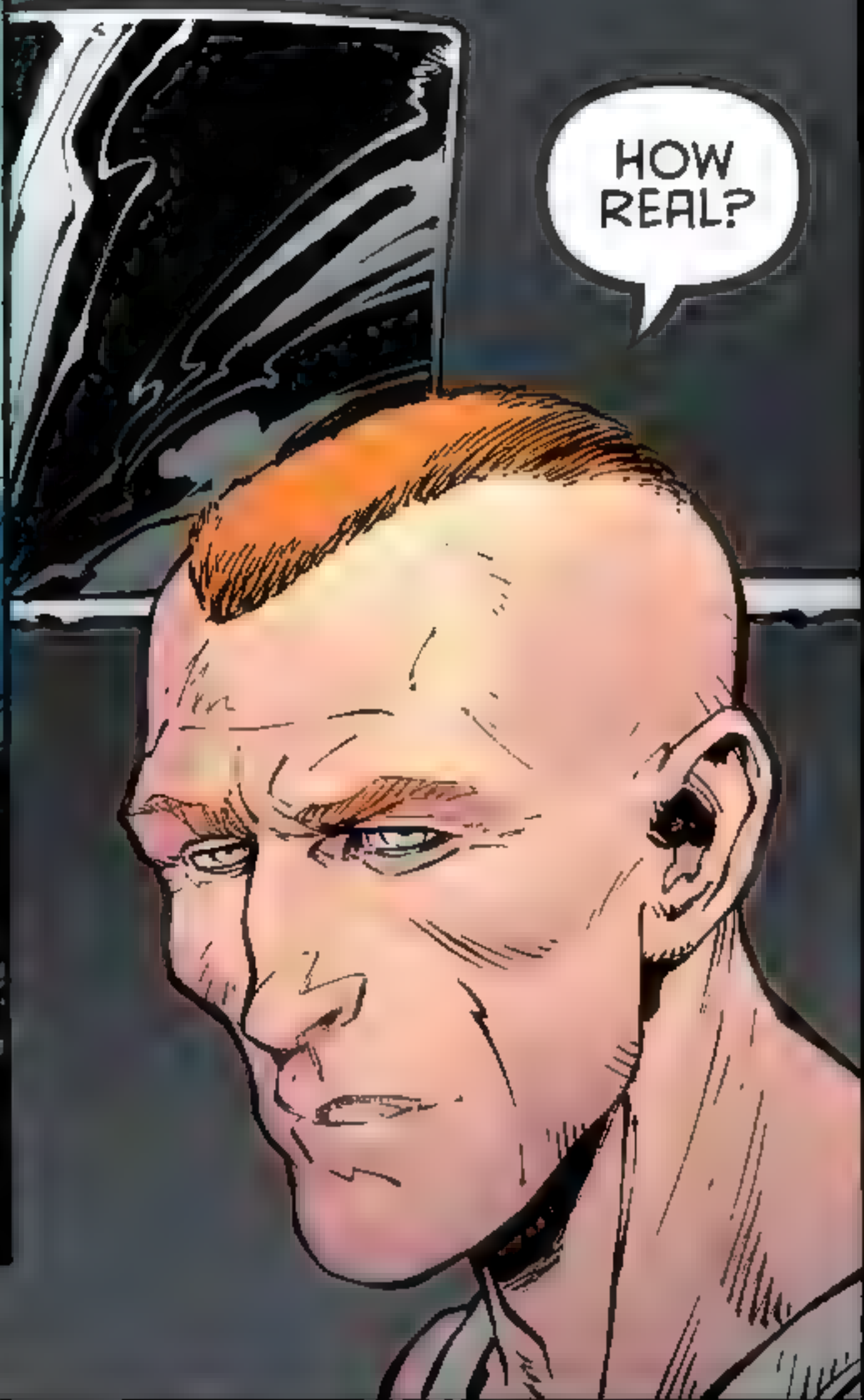
NOW. FEELING BETTER?

THAT WAS PARKED HERE THE WHOLE--



HEY, GUYS, I'M GETTING SOMETHING. IT'S LOOKING REAL.

HOW REAL?

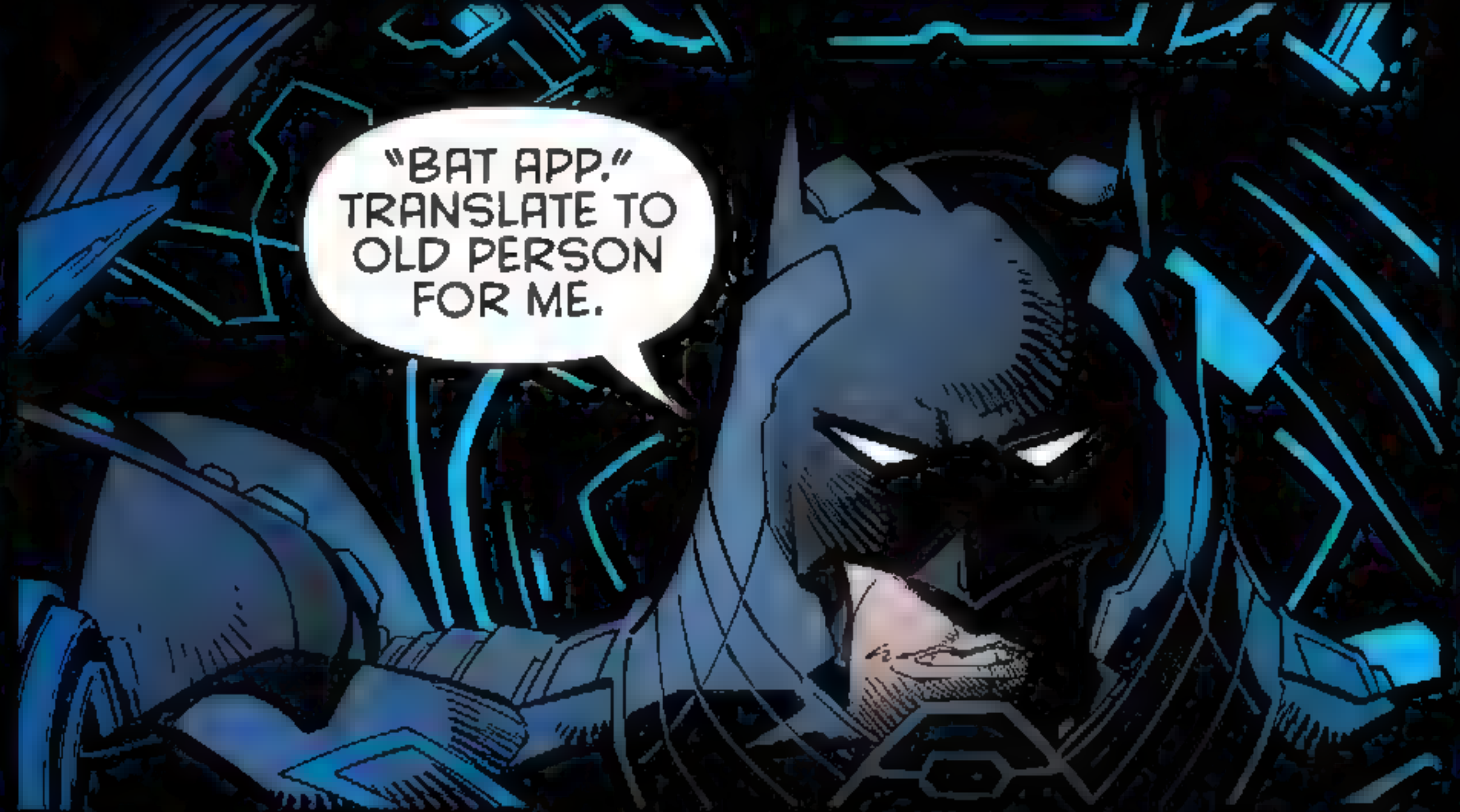


VERY REAL. AND VERY BIG.

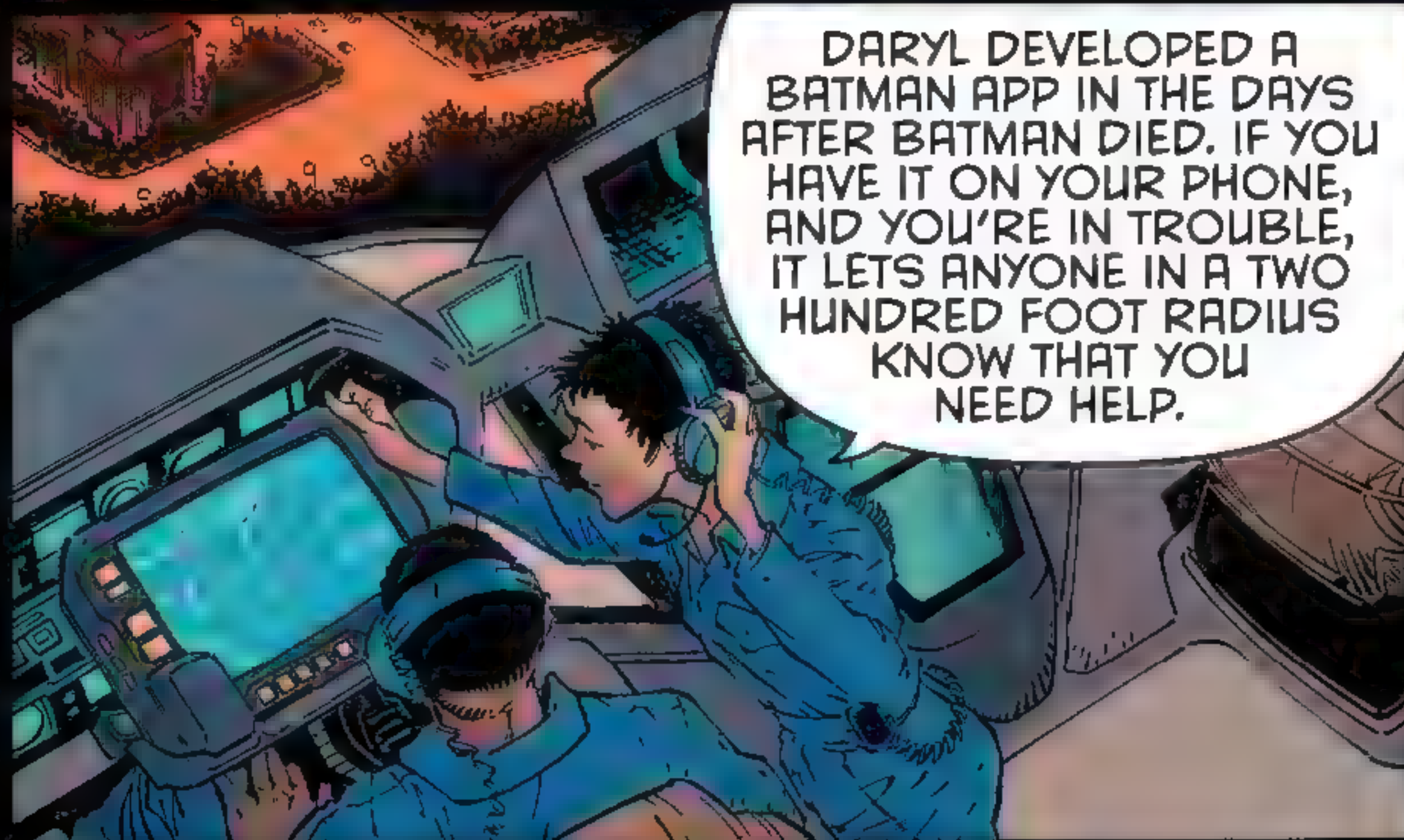




I'VE GOTTEN HUNDREDS OF PINGS IN JUST THE LAST MINUTE. THE **BAT-APP** IS GOING CRAZY. IT'S ANOTHER MASSIVE DISTURBANCE IN THE **NARROWS**. CHINATOWN THIS TIME.



"BAT APP." TRANSLATE TO OLD PERSON FOR ME.



DARYL DEVELOPED A BATMAN APP IN THE DAYS AFTER BATMAN DIED. IF YOU HAVE IT ON YOUR PHONE, AND YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, IT LETS ANYONE IN A TWO HUNDRED FOOT RADIUS KNOW THAT YOU NEED HELP.



IT'S SO WE CAN WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER. THAT'S BATMAN.



TO ME AT LEAST.

AND...IT HAS A BARB THAT FUNNELS ALL **ALERTS** TO US, UP HERE. SO WE GET A BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND JUMP ON ANY CRIME. BEFORE THE NINE-ONE-ONE CALLS, EVEN.



HEH. SEE, THAT'S BATMAN. TO ME AT LEAST.

JUMPING?



BAT-STACHE AWAY.

Look at that.

It'll never stop being strange, will it? Seeing the city from above. Seeing the whole.

Before this, every day, every moment, your job was about seeing it from the street.

But now, here you are on the highest gargoyle of all, staring it in the face, and feeling it staring back, challenging you.



And the city is hurting right now. You can see the gashes. Deep ones, left by the Joker.

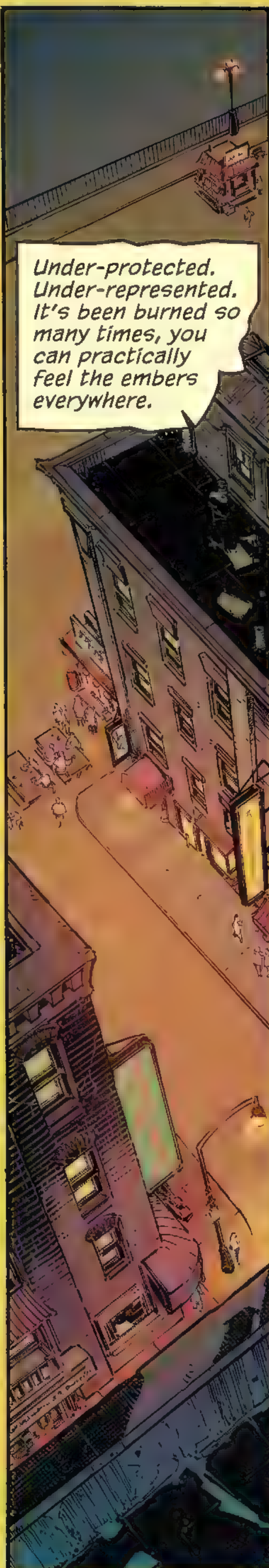
Especially here. In the Narrows.



It's Gotham's poorest neighborhood. Made up of nearly a dozen diverse communities. It's been let down over and over by the mechanisms put in place to protect it.



Under-protected. Under-represented. It's been burned so many times, you can practically feel the embers everywhere.



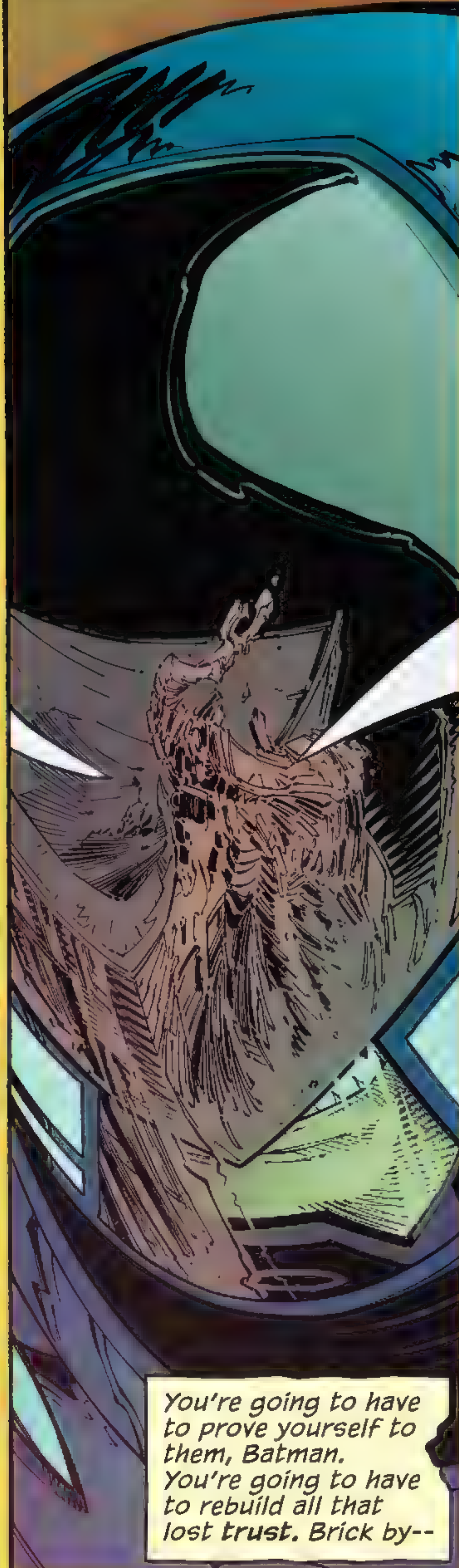
Without help from the city, it establishes its own forms of protection and justice. From community groups to gangs. All independent.

Like the old Batman.



And here you are, an extension of the very system that's failed them so many times, but a system you've believed in and fought for your whole life... here you are, coming along, telling them to believe in you.

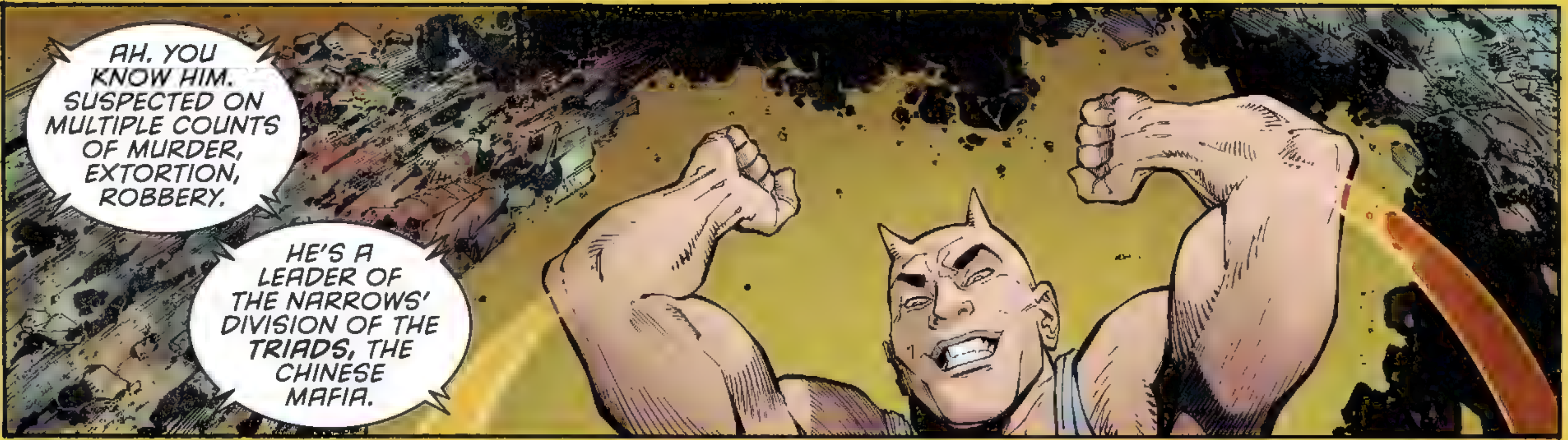
You're going to have to prove yourself to them, Batman. You're going to have to rebuild all that lost trust. Brick by--











AH. YOU KNOW HIM. SUSPECTED ON MULTIPLE COUNTS OF MURDER, EXTORTION, ROBBERY.

HE'S A LEADER OF THE NARROWS' DIVISION OF THE TRIADS, THE CHINESE MAFIA.



HIS GANG IS KNOWN AS THE "DEVIL PIGS." THE SUB-DERMAL HORNS ARE THE SIGNATURE. USUALLY MEMBERS HAVE THREE.

HE USED TO HAVE THREE.

I REMOVED THE THIRD ONE LAST TIME WE MET.

Come on. Get him down fast, Jim. Intel says already twenty likely dead, buried in the rubble. You're here to prove you can keep these people safe. So fifty-five thousand volts should...



...do absolutely nothing.



DARYL? WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON WITH OUR FRIEND HERE? HE'S A STREET BOSS. WHY'S HE JUSTICE LEAGUE ALL OF A SUDDEN?



I DON'T KNOW.  
IT DOESN'T MAKE  
SENSE... HE SEEMS TO  
BE ABLE TO TAP INTO  
AND MANIPULATE  
THE MOLECULAR  
STRUCTURE OF  
SILICATE.

HE'S USING  
SOMETHING TO  
CONVERT HIS  
BODY'S POWER  
INTO A KIND OF  
MAGNETISM  
FOR IT.

SILICATE.  
LIKE IN  
BRICK.

YES,  
BUT NOT  
JUST BRICK,  
BATMAN.

UNH!  
WHAT  
ELSE?

IT'S FOUND  
IN NEARLY ALL  
BUILDING MATERIALS.  
BRICKS, STONE,  
TAR...

WHAT ARE  
YOU SAYING,  
DAMMIT?!

HE'S SAYING  
HE CAN USE  
THE CITY ITSELF  
AS A  
WEAPON...



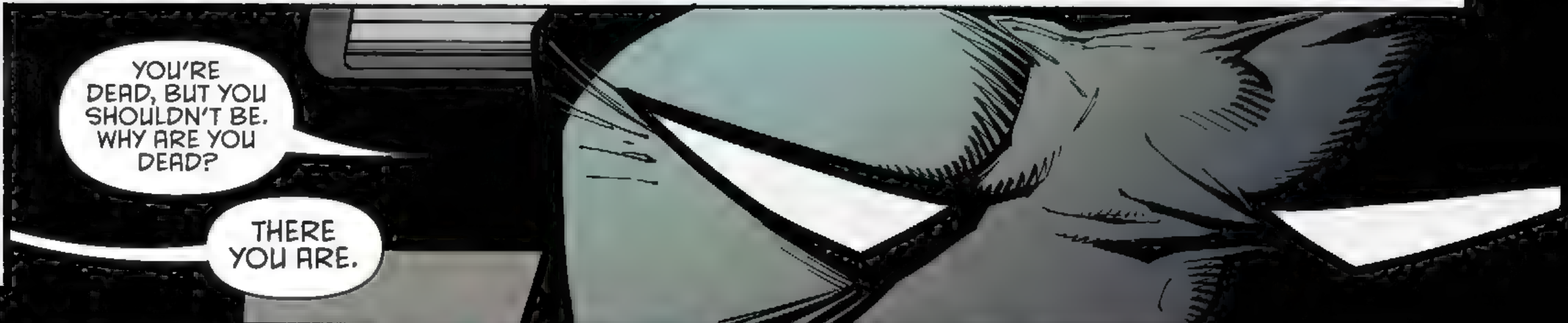


...TO MAKE  
ANYTHING HE  
WANTS TO KILL  
YOU.



"YOU'RE DEAD."





YOU'RE DEAD, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE. WHY ARE YOU DEAD?

THERE YOU ARE.



I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU WITHOUT A TEN-FOOT ROBOT GROWING OUT OF YOUR ASS. I ASSUME IT'S CHARGING?

MORE LIKE IN AIRPLANE MODE, COMMISSIONER SAWYER. BUT *PRECIOUS PRECIOUS*. I BROUGHT HIM IN *ALIVE*. WHAT DID HIM IN?



DEATH BY *MAGIC BEANS*, APPARENTLY. TAKE A LOOK.

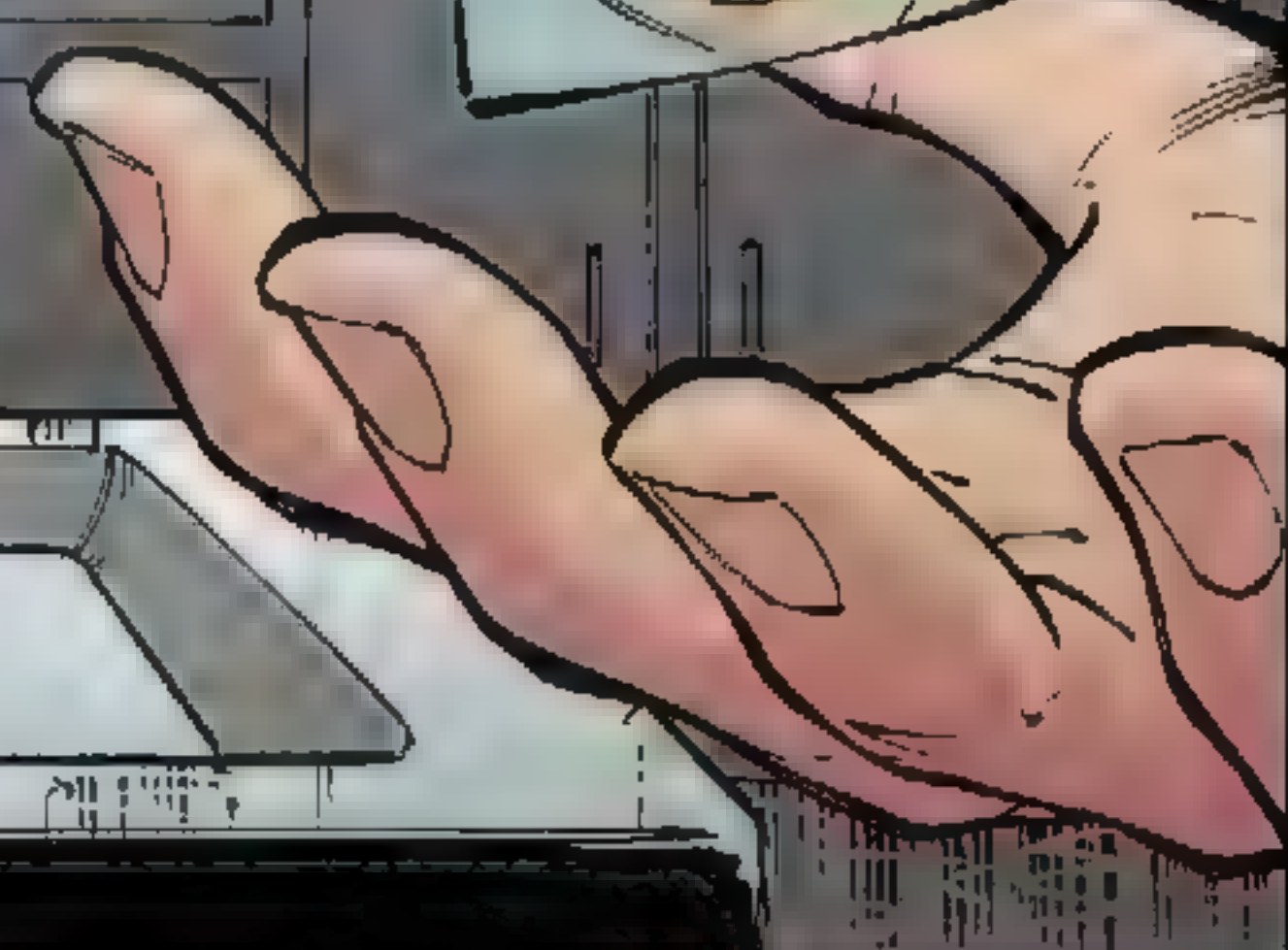
WE FOUND IT SEWN INTO HIS ANKLE, JUST ABOVE THE RIGHT HEEL.




IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF... *SEED*.

THE "SEED" LOOKS *ORGANIC*, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY VERY HIGH-TECH. A SUPER-LEAD SHELL AROUND A TINY RADIOACTIVE REACTOR.

AND IT KILLED HIM HOW?



HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO BOOKING AND THE THING'S SHELL *DISSOLVED*. IT STARTED GIVING OFF MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF *RADIATION*.



SO YOU'RE SAYING WHOEVER GAVE IT TO HIM TURNED IT ON HIGH AND *COOKED* HIM BEFORE HE COULD TALK?

HE DIED IN SECONDS...





...JUST  
LIKE THE  
OTHERS.

ALL FOUND  
DEAD OF RADIATION  
POISONING IN THE LAST FEW  
WEEKS. CORONER DISCOVERED  
ONE OF THESE "SEEDS"  
IN EACH OF THEM.

THING IS,  
EACH SEED GAVE ITS  
HOST A *UNIQUE* WAY  
OF ENHANCING AND  
CHANNELING HIS OR HER  
BODY'S OWN ENERGY.  
ELECTRICAL. THERMAL.  
PHYSICAL. EACH PERSON  
GOT HIS OR HER  
OWN SPECIAL  
*ABILITIES*.

AN ARMS  
DEALER WHO  
SELLS  
POWERS?

THESE TWO, THE  
SEEDS FOUND IN THEM  
WEREN'T FUNCTIONAL.  
THEY KILLED THEM  
PRETTY MUCH RIGHT  
AWAY.

THE SEEDS IN *THESE* TWO  
GENTLEMEN, HOWEVER, HAD  
UTILITY. MEANING...WHOEVER  
MAKES THESE THINGS, THE  
FIRST COUPLE WERE LIKELY  
JUST *EXPERIMENTS*.

SO HE'S  
PERFECTING  
HIS CRAFT.

AND HE'S GIVING  
THESE THINGS TO SOME  
VERY BAD PEOPLE. EACH OF  
HIS CLIENTS WAS A HIGH-LEVEL  
CRIME BOSS IN THE NARROWS.  
DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES.  
DIFFERENT GANGS. ALL  
GOING TO HIM.

YOU HAVE  
TAM CANACOO  
OF THE GREEN LINE  
FOURS. FATEFUL  
EDIE FATIANO  
FROM--

I KNOW  
HER. I KNOW  
*ALL* OF  
THEM.

I WAS  
THE ONE WHO  
TOOK EACH OF  
THEM DOWN.  
THEY WERE *MY*  
COLLARS.

THIS LAST  
YEAR'S BEEN SO  
CRAZY, I DIDN'T  
EVEN REALIZE MOST  
OF THEM WERE  
BACK ON THE  
STREETS.

SO IT'S  
PERSONAL.

WELL, I  
SUPPOSE  
YOU HAVE YOUR  
VERY FIRST  
*SUPER-VILLAIN*,  
JIM.





THANKS FOR THE HELP, COMMISSIONER. KEEP ME POSTED IF ANYTHING ELSE COMES UP.

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT.

WHAT?

LOOK, I KNOW IN GOTHAM THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A BATMAN STANDING WITH A COMMISSIONER ON A ROOFTOP SOMEWHERE, TALKING IN SECRET, BUT NOT AFTER TODAY.

POWERS CORP AND THE CITY WANT GCPD TAKING LEAD ON THIS, JIM. WHEN WE'RE READY TO MOVE IN ON HIM, WE'LL CALL YOU. YOU CAN COLLAR HIM AND TAKE A BOW.

BUT, MAGGIE...

LISTEN TO ME. YOU'RE BATMAN. BUT A *DEPUTIZED* BATMAN. STATE MONEY. STATE BOSSES. YOU'RE OFFICIAL. AND "OFFICIAL" MEANS RULES. YOU DON'T FOLLOW THOSE RULES, THEY'LL SHUT YOU DOWN HARD. THAT I KNOW.



AND IF I DO?

>Sigh< I DON'T KNOW, JIM. BATMAN'S ALWAYS BEEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE FOR ME. AND HERE YOU ARE...IF YOU'RE ASKING ME IF I THINK IT COULD WORK? HONESTLY, I'D SAY GET OUT NOW.

THAT'S WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO TELL ME, ISN'T IT?

NO ONE WOULD THINK LESS OF YOU.



I HAVE TO GO.

ALL RIGHT. WELL, AT LEAST I KNOW YOU WON'T DISAPPEAR ON ME, RIGHT?



...



DIGITAL CAMOUFLAGE.

TOUCHE. WELL, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...



"...WATCH YOUR  
BACK OUT THERE."

Think, dammit!  
Think. Find his  
weakness.

He's a devil pig in a  
house of brick. Not  
hay. Not sticks. You  
can't blow it down.

But wait...Doesn't somebody  
get cooked at the end of  
that story...?

DARYL!  
THERMAL!  
NOW!

Well, well. Look at  
this. Locked in your  
own house...

GEE GEE  
HEUNG...

...GET  
READY TO  
HAVE ONE LESS  
HORN.

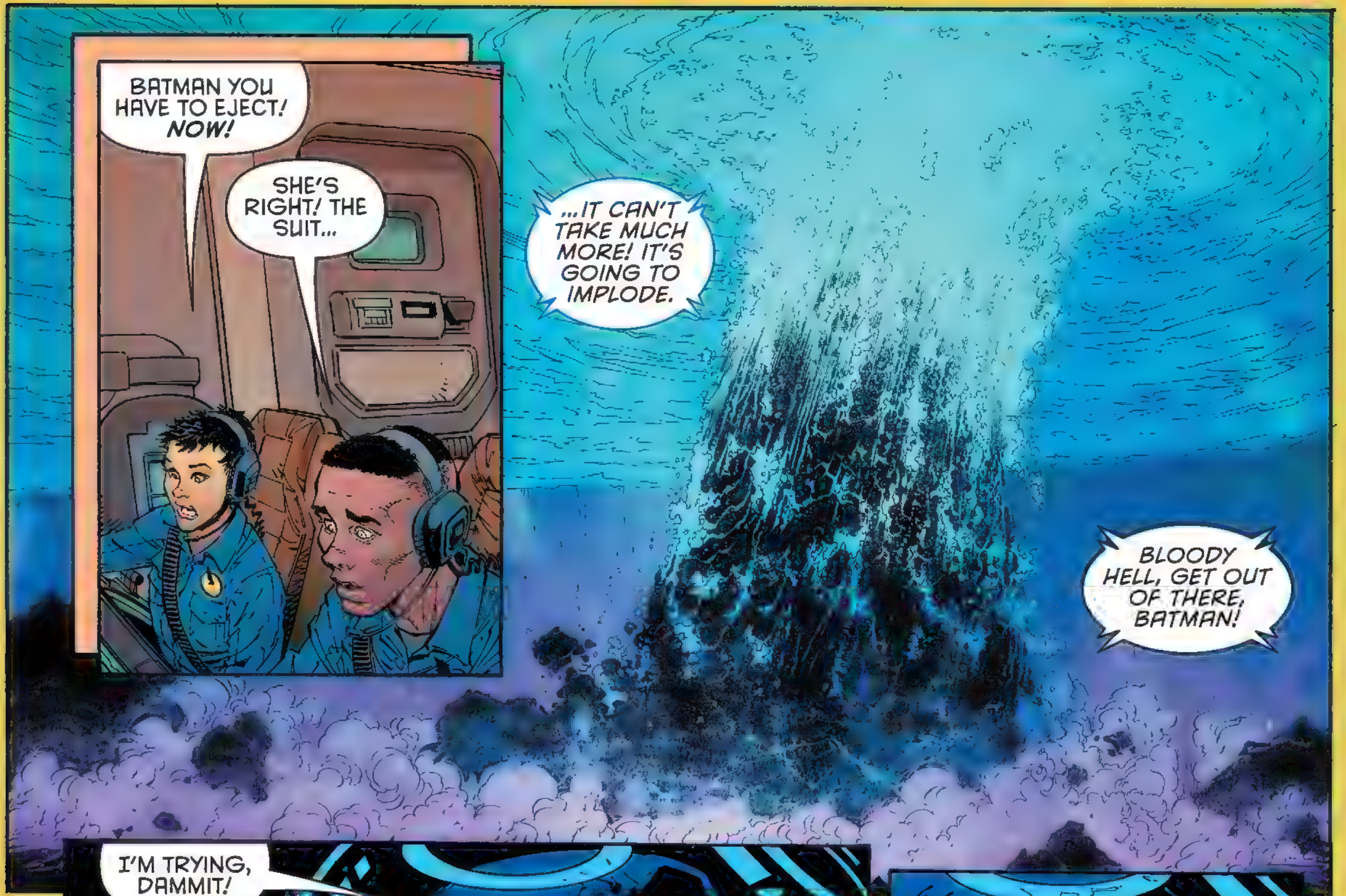
IMPACT  
NEEDED TO  
SHATTER THIS  
THING?

TWELVE  
THOUSAND  
POUNDS. BUT  
BATMAN, HURRY,  
HE'S PULLING FROM  
THE STREET! THE  
MICA IS--





UNH!



BATMAN YOU HAVE TO EJECT! NOW!

SHE'S RIGHT! THE SUIT...

...IT CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE! IT'S GOING TO IMplode.

BLOODY HELL, GET OUT OF THERE, BATMAN!



I'M TRYING, DAMMIT!

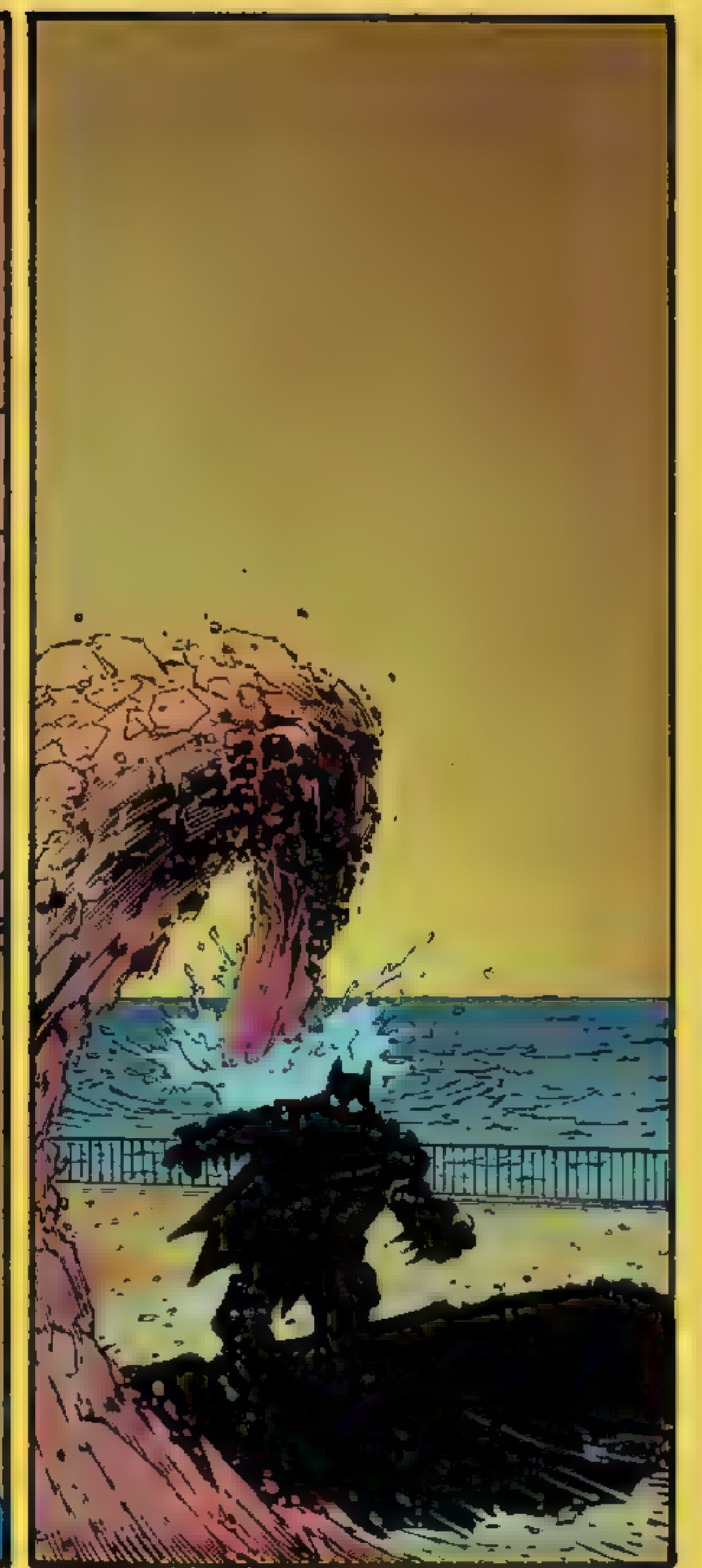
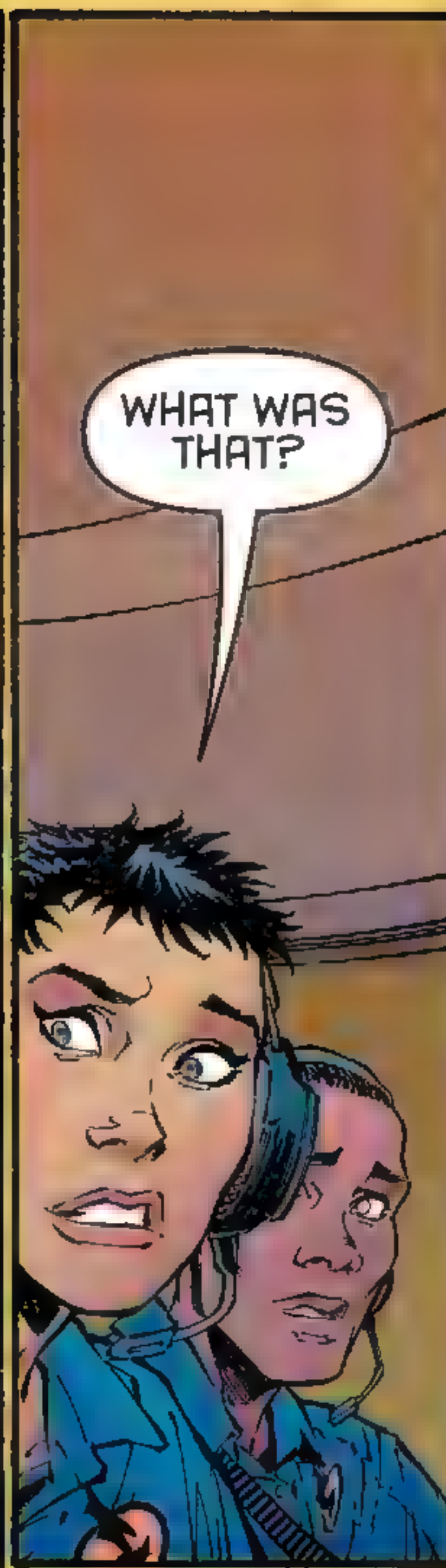
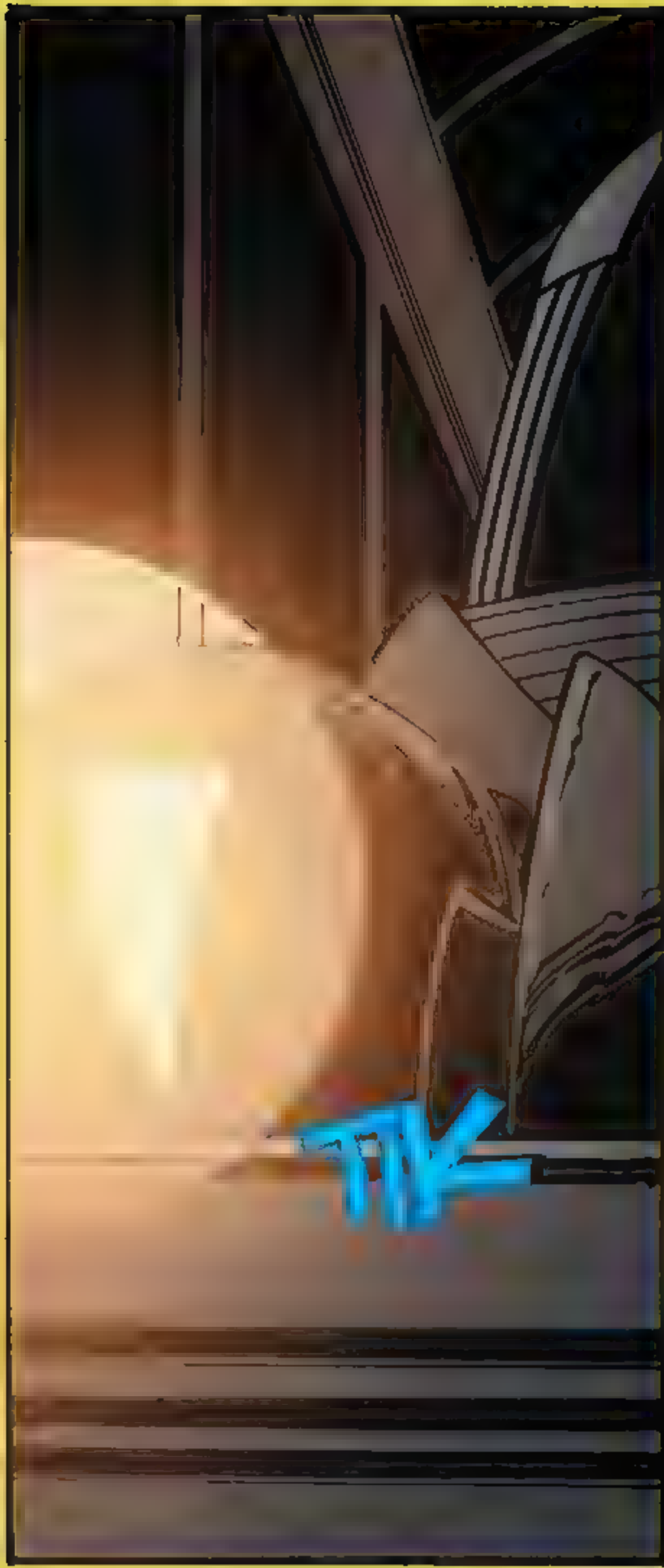
Try all you want, idiot. But this is where the road takes you, literally.

Sawyer was right. They were all right. You were a damn fool. Over before you started. You're not Batman. You don't even have a--

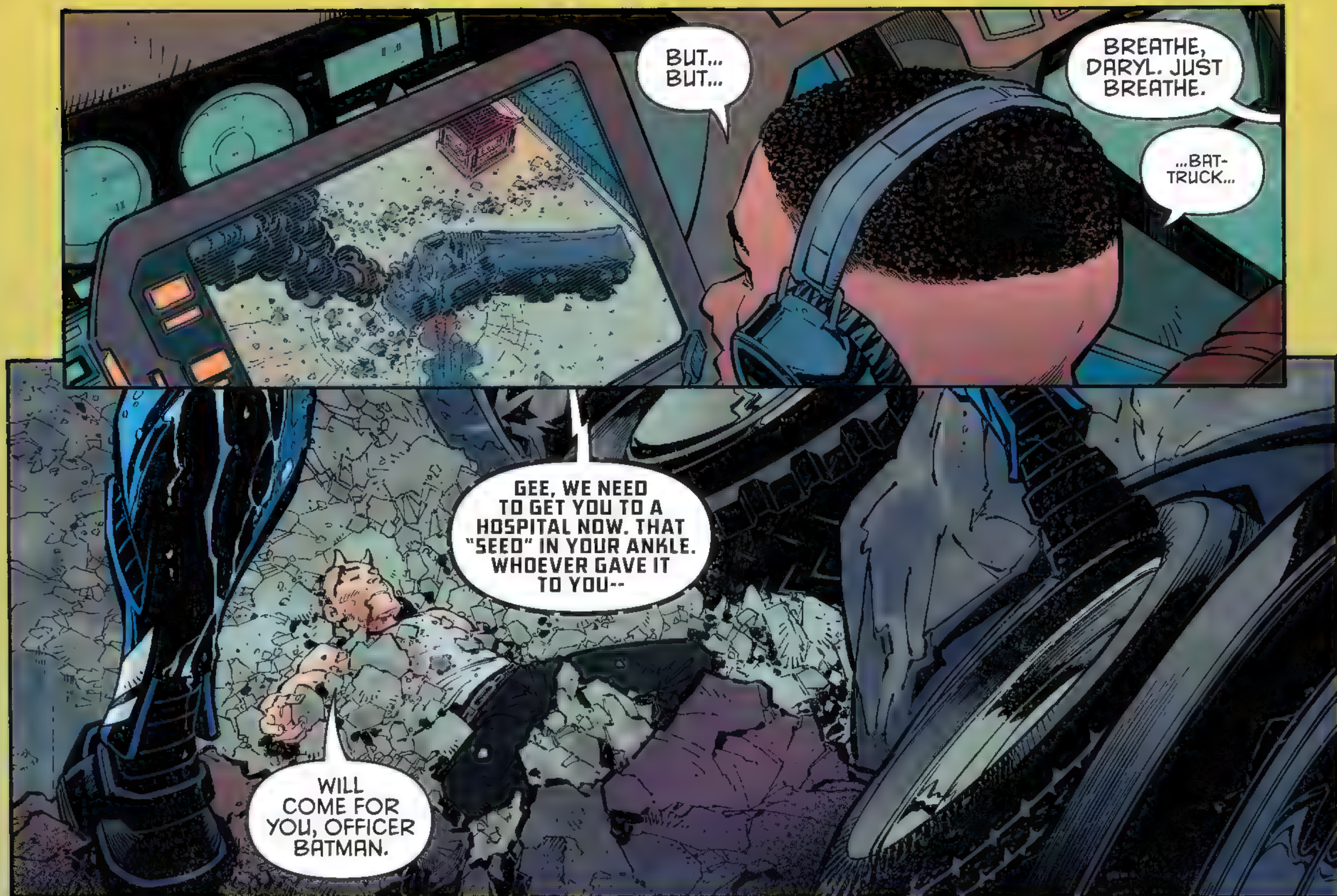


OH. WAIT...

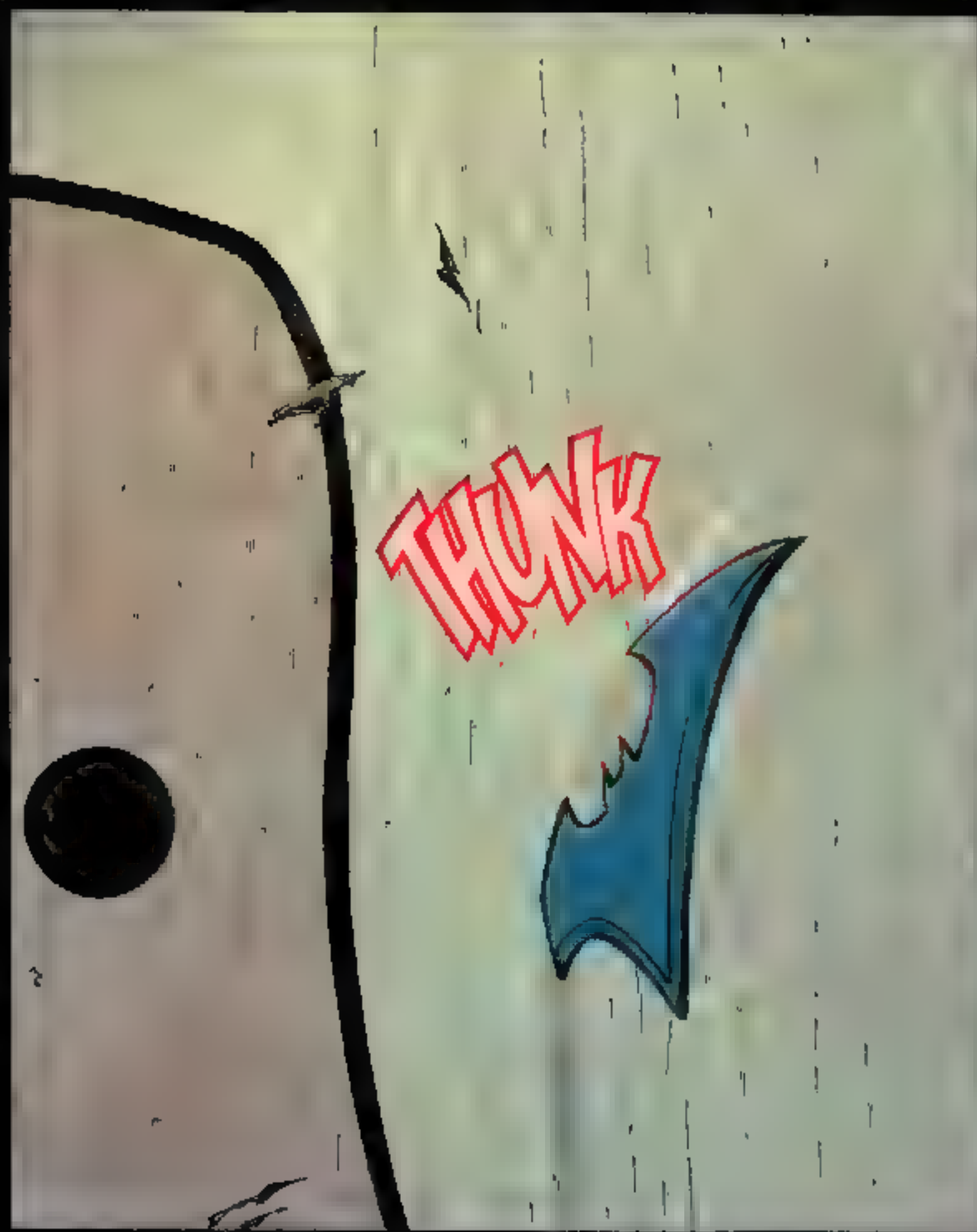




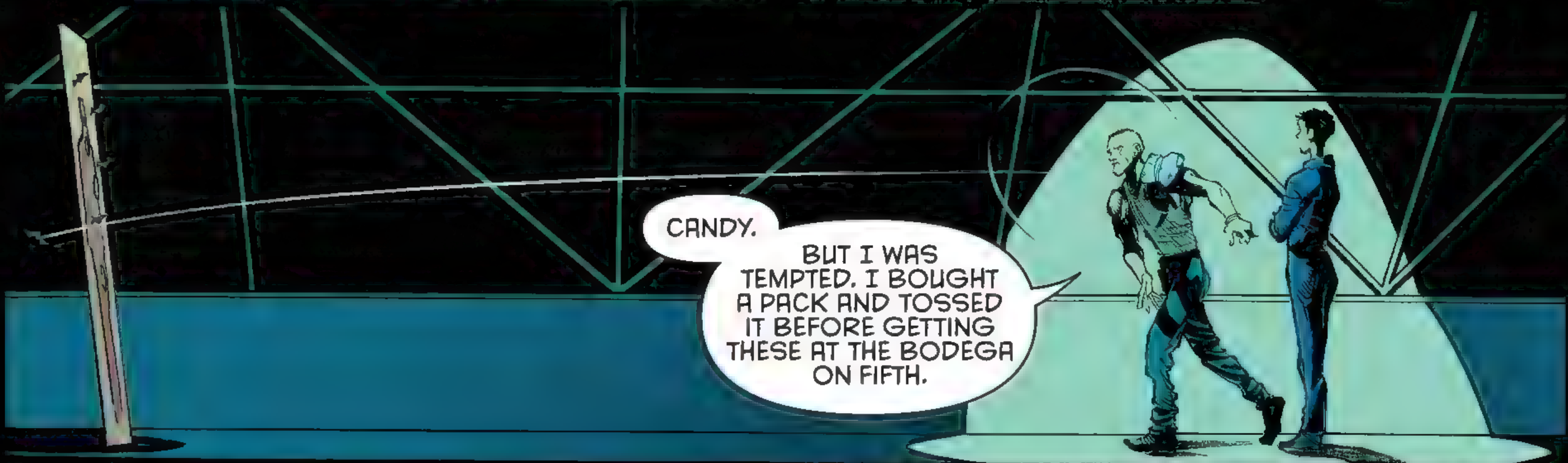
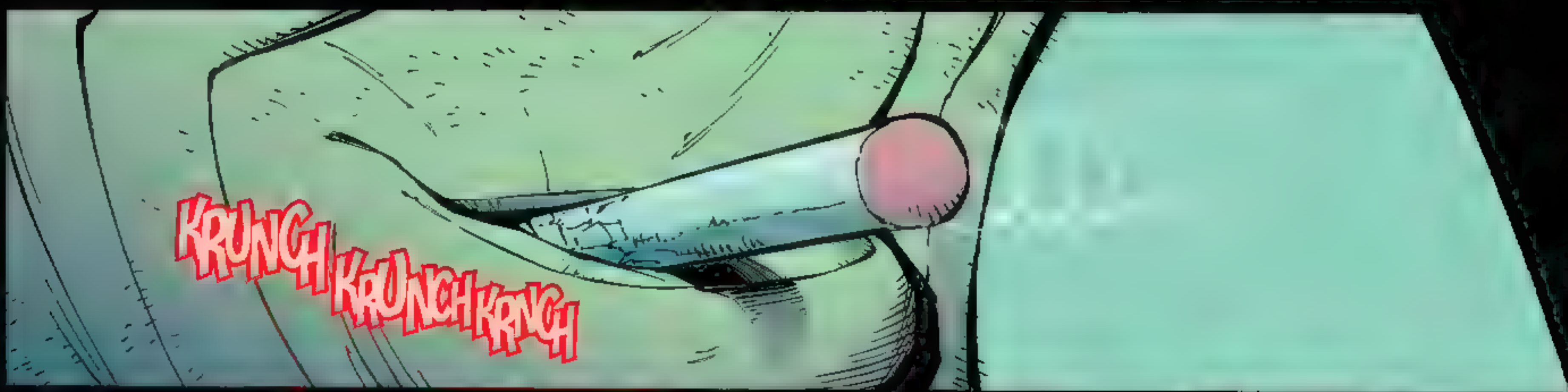








AND...TELL  
ME THAT'S  
NOT WHAT IT  
LOOKS  
LIKE.



CANDY.

BUT I WAS  
TEMPTED. I BOUGHT  
A PACK AND TOSSED  
IT BEFORE GETTING  
THESE AT THE BODEGA  
ON FIFTH.



I JUST CAME  
BY TO TELL YOU  
THAT IT'S OFFICIAL:  
NOW YOU HAVE NO  
BATMOBILE.

YOU WILL  
SOON. THERE  
WERE OTHER  
MODELS. SO,  
FEAR NOT.

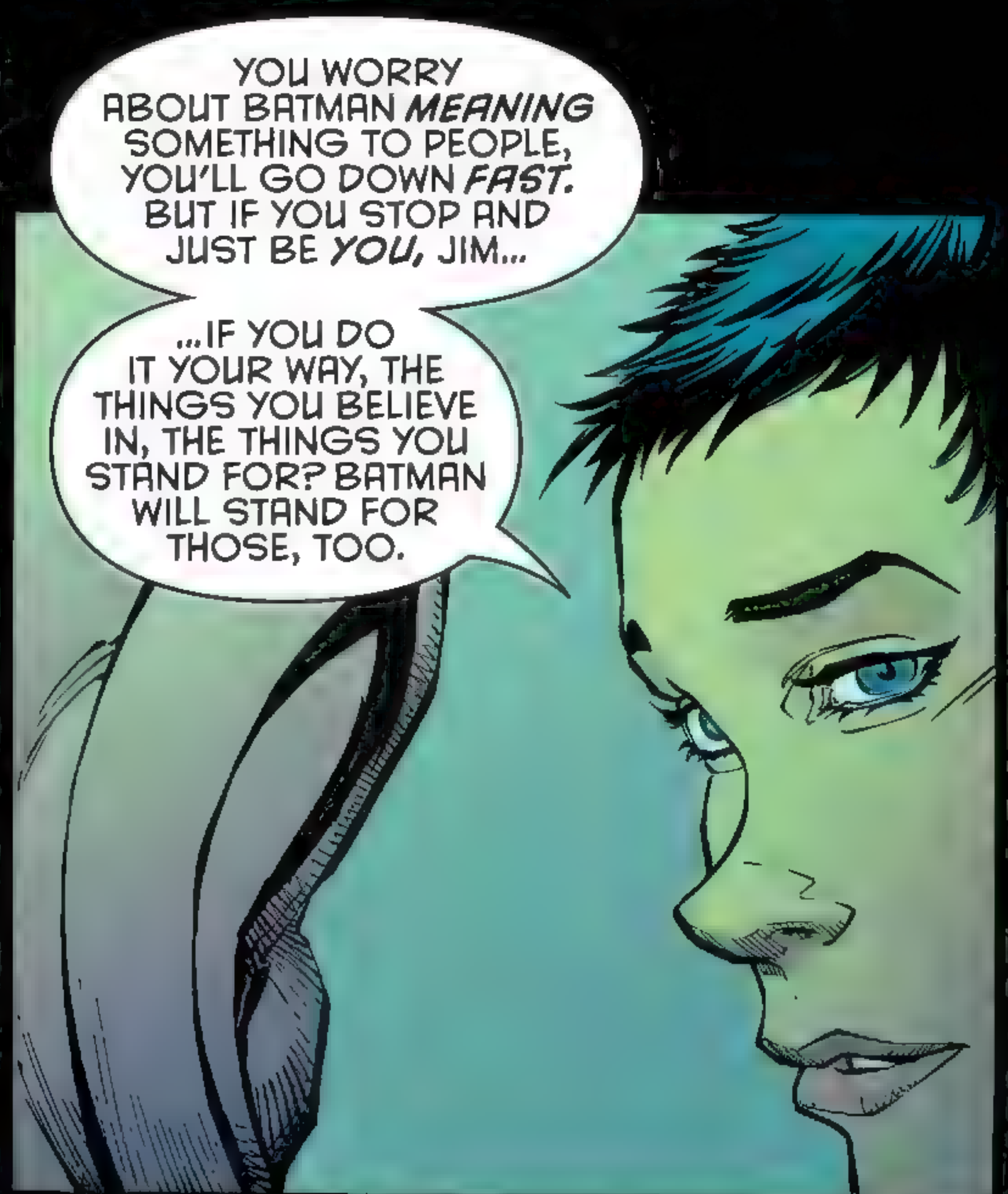
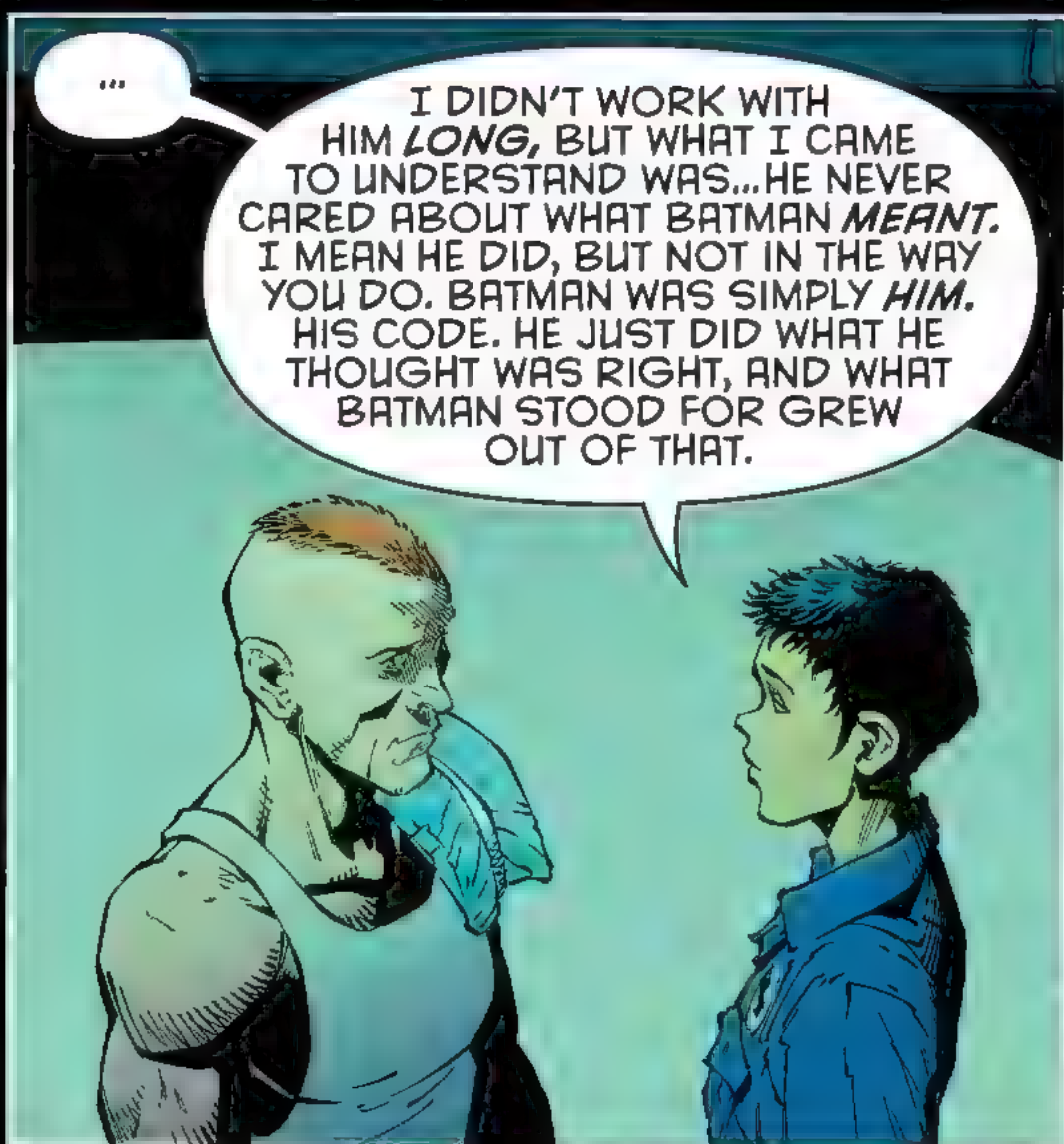
NOTED,  
THANKS.

ALL RIGHT,  
THEN. WE'LL BE  
MOORED TO THE  
ROOF IN LESS  
THAN FIVE.

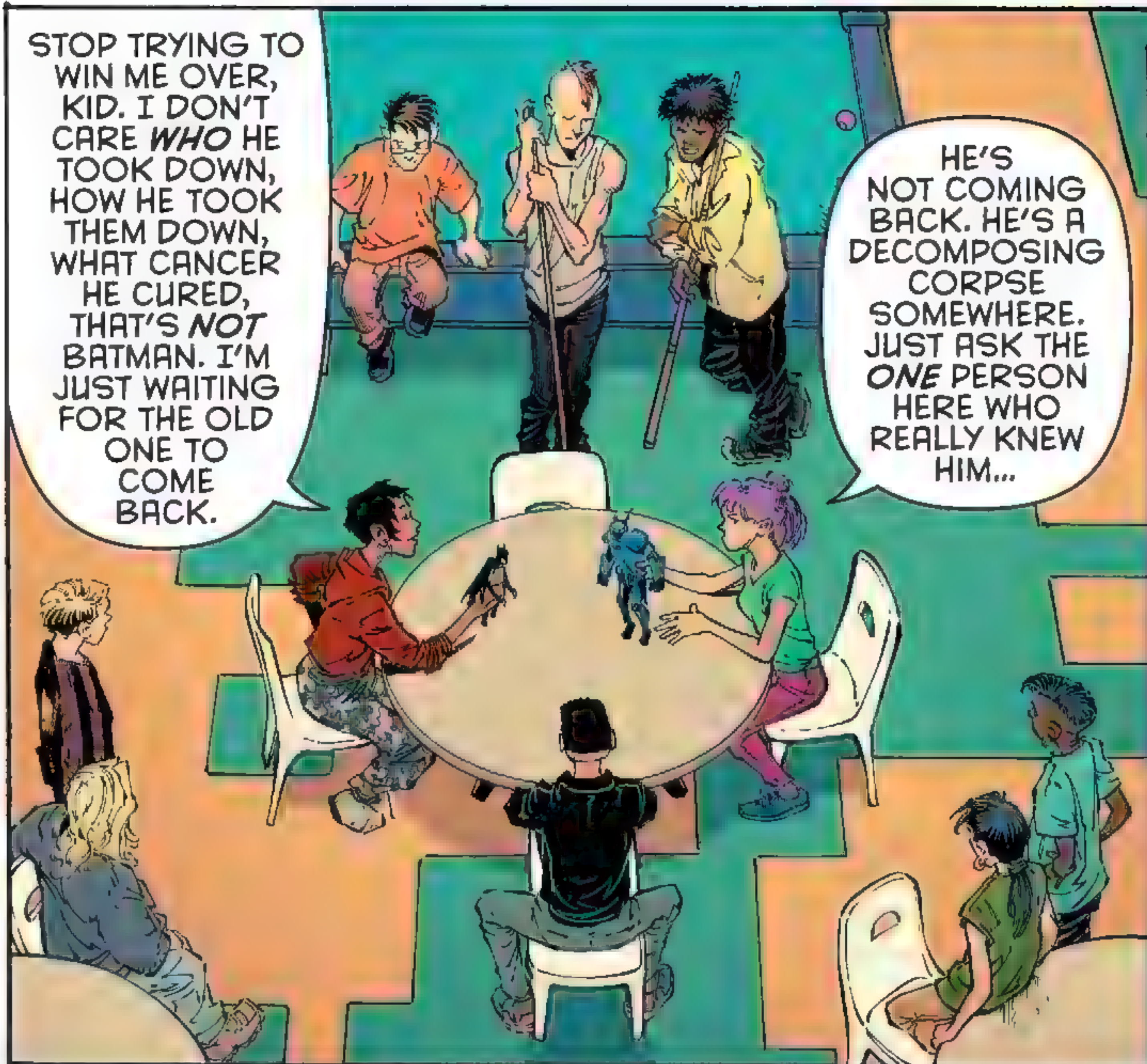


YOU  
WORKED  
WITH HIM,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?









STOP TRYING TO WIN ME OVER, KID. I DON'T CARE *WHO* HE TOOK DOWN, HOW HE TOOK THEM DOWN, WHAT CANCER HE CURED, THAT'S *NOT* BATMAN. I'M JUST WAITING FOR THE OLD ONE TO COME BACK.

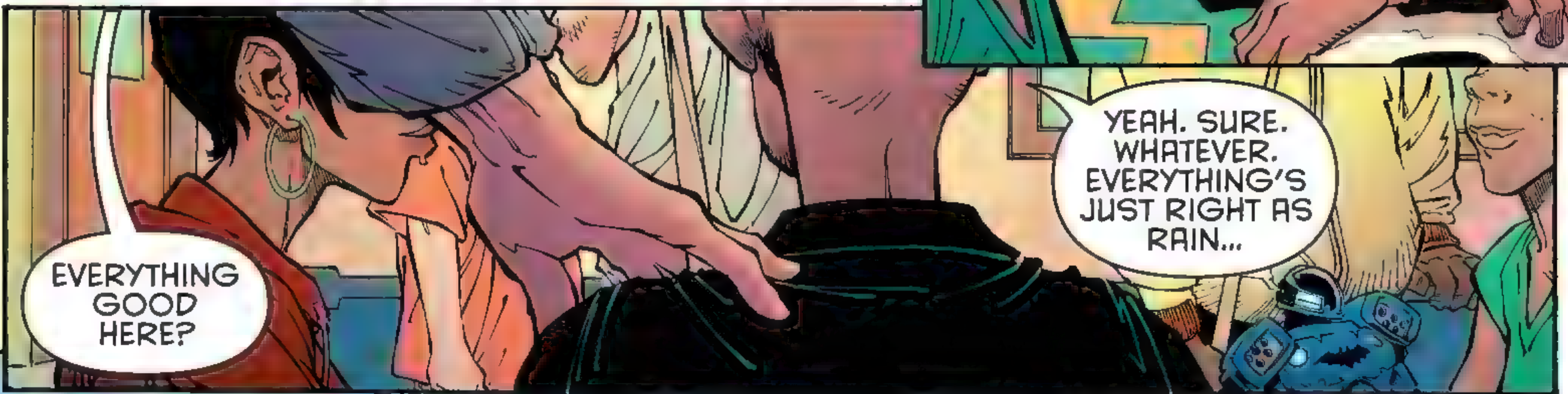
HE'S NOT COMING BACK. HE'S A DECOMPOSING CORPSE SOMEWHERE. JUST ASK THE *ONE* PERSON HERE WHO REALLY KNEW HIM...



ASK DUKE.

MISTER *DUKE* THOMAS. YOU KNEW THE OLD BATMAN. HE'S GONE FOR GOOD, RIGHT?

...



EVERYTHING GOOD HERE?

YEAH. SURE. WHATEVER. EVERYTHING'S JUST RIGHT AS RAIN...



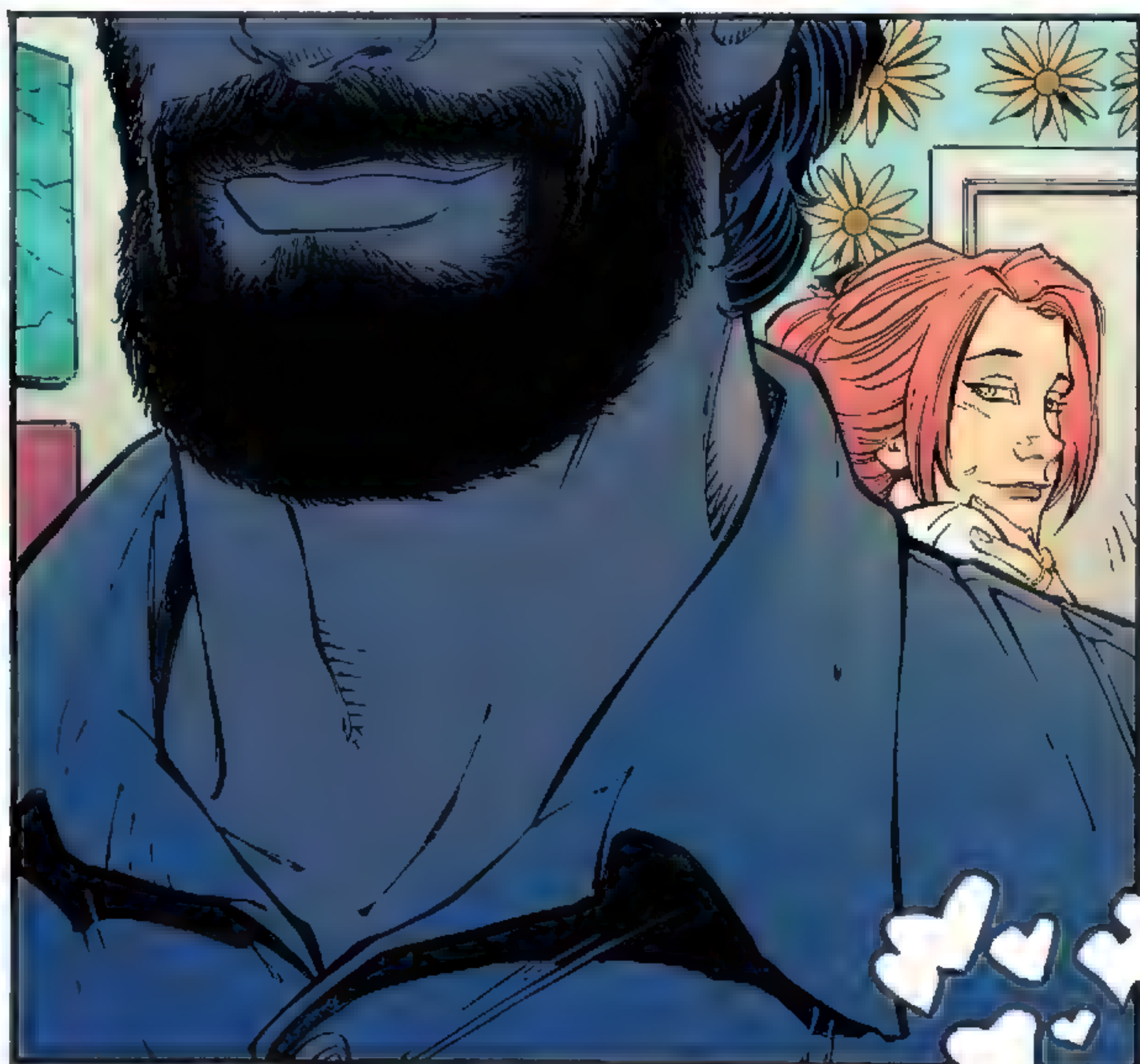
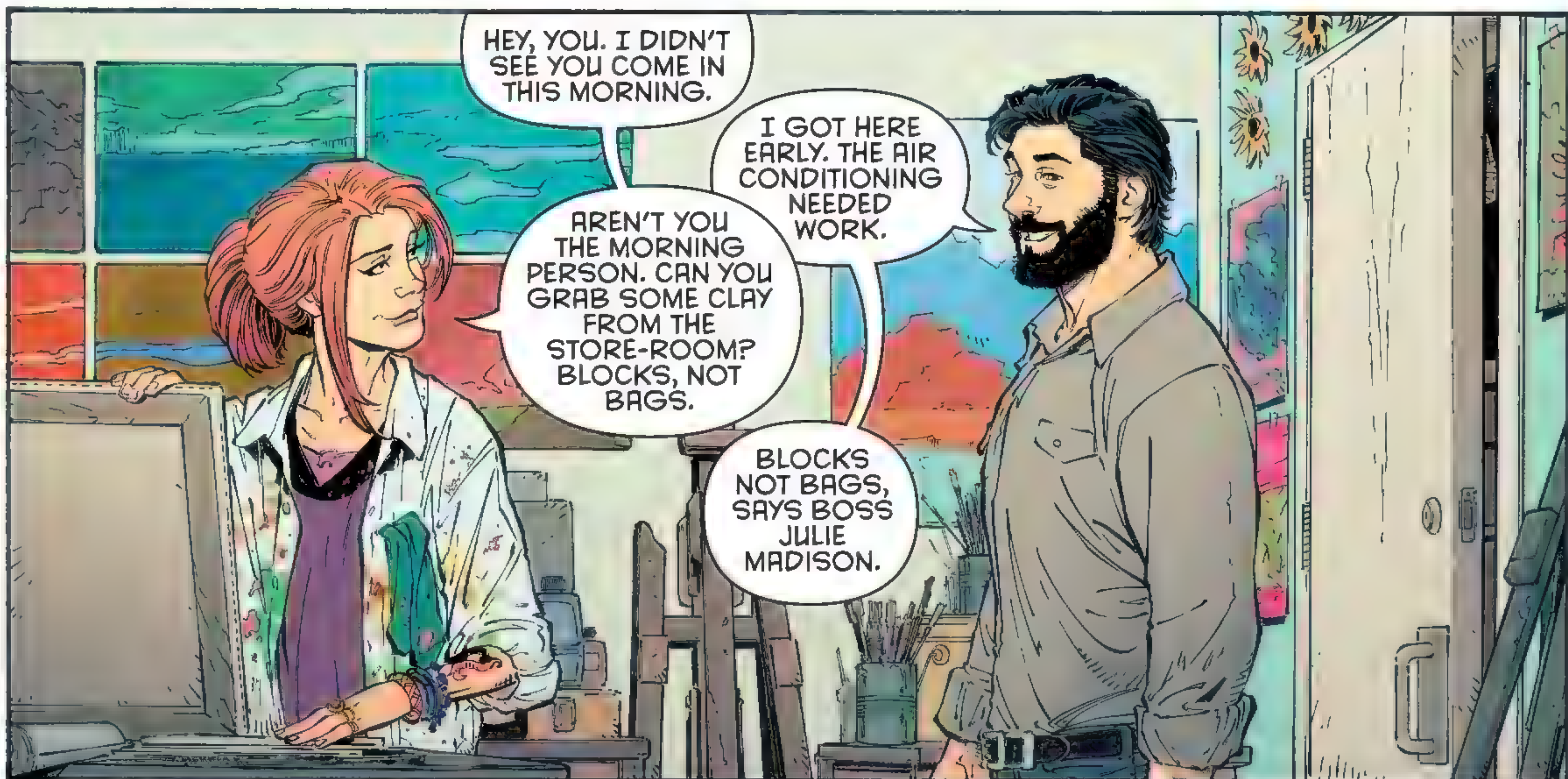
...MR. WAYNE.



CALL ME BRUCE, DUKE. I KEEP ASKING.

SORRY, "BRUCE."









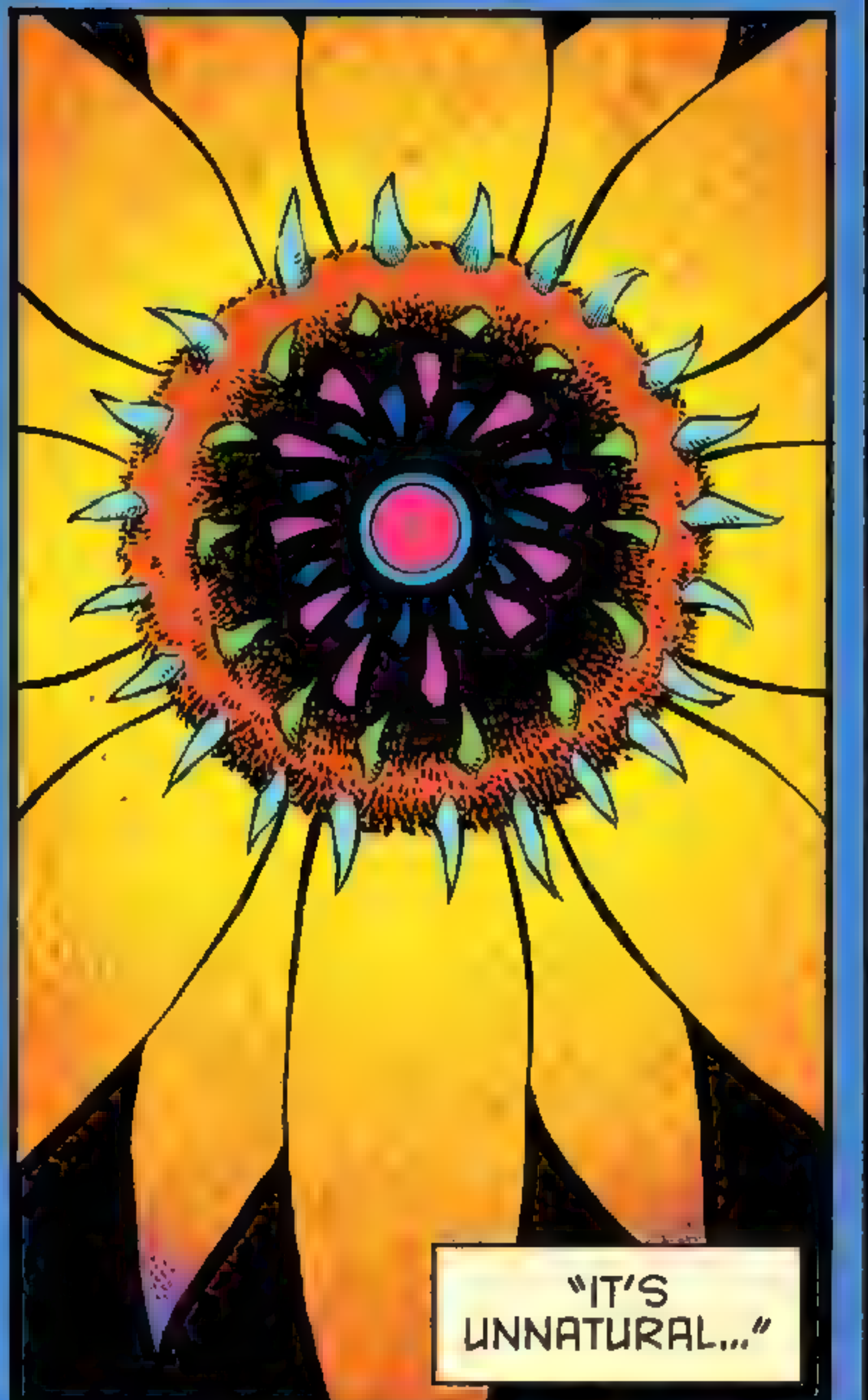
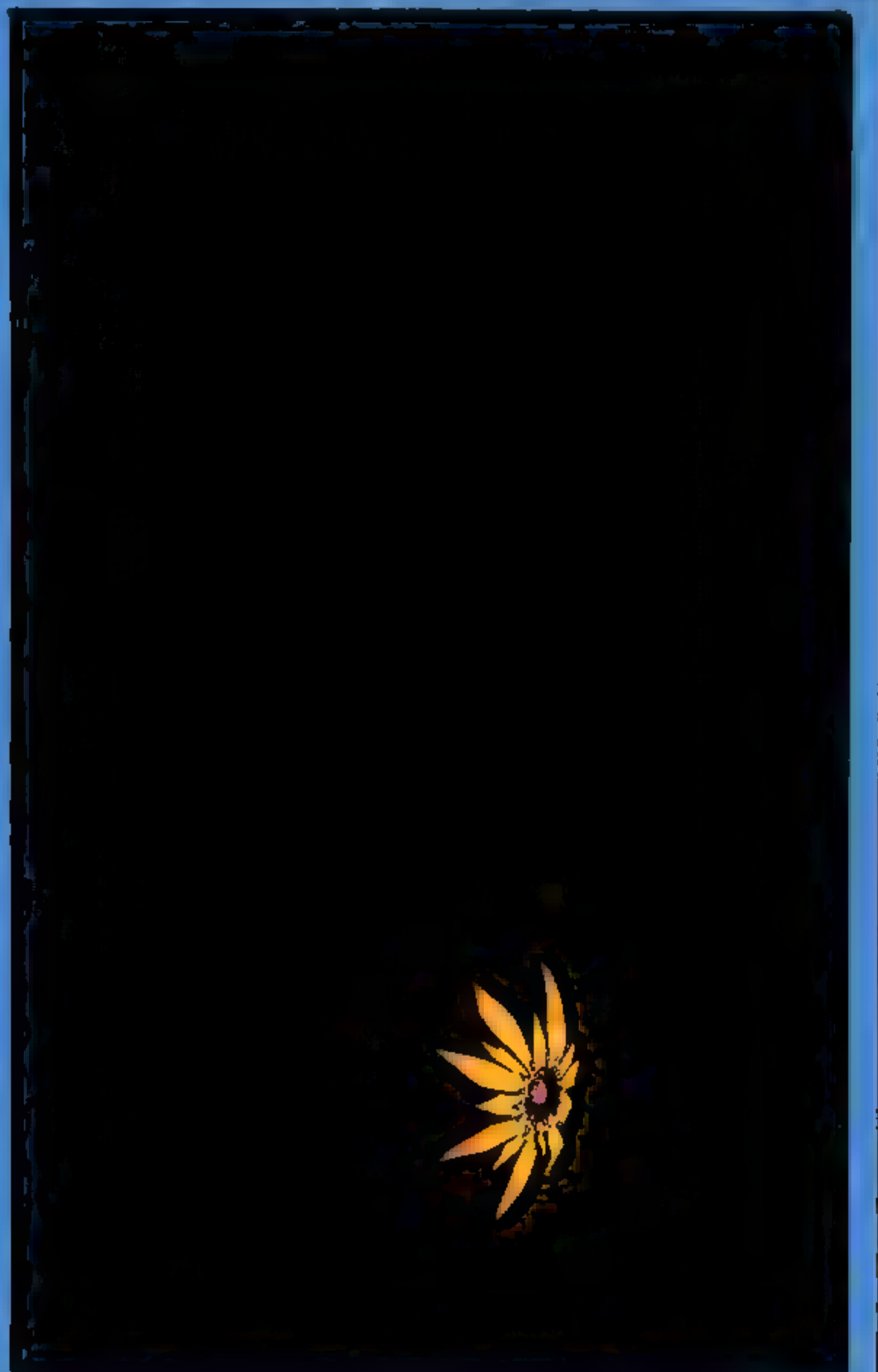








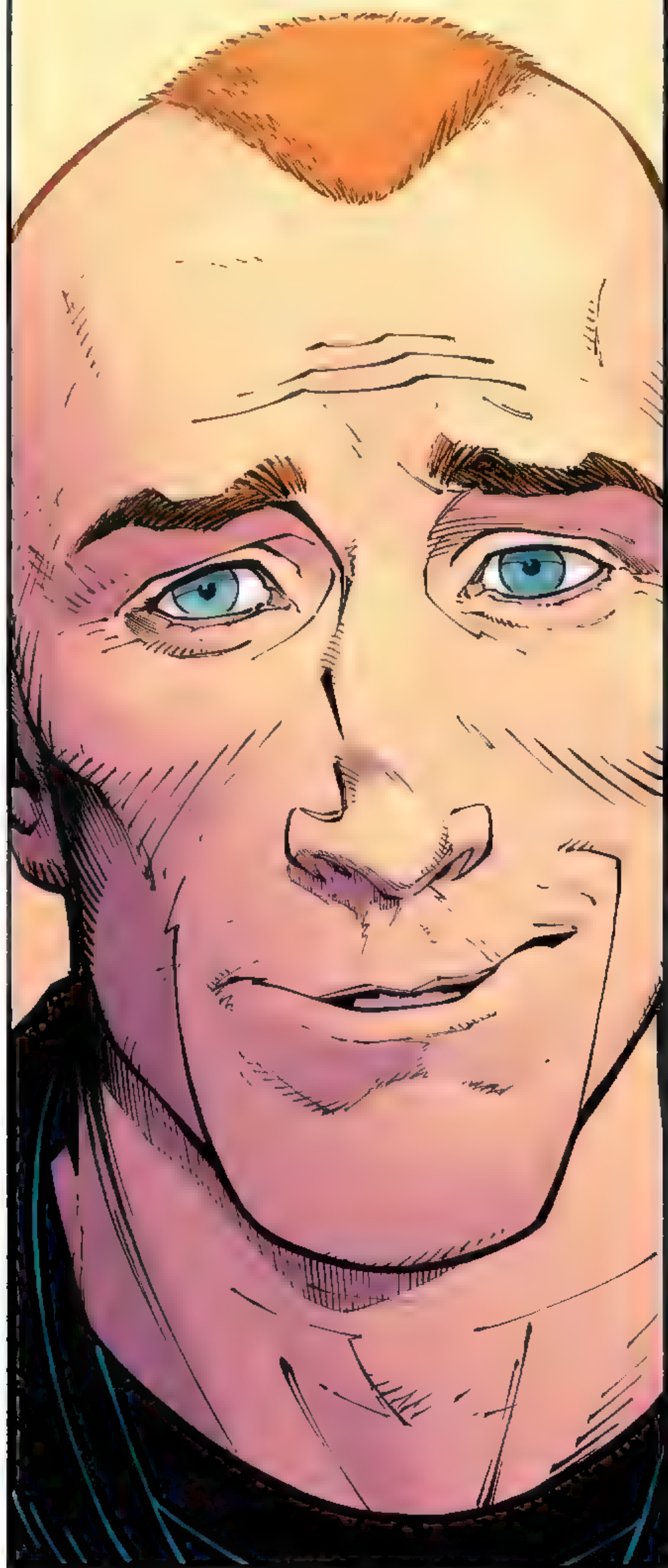






...I GET IT. I MEAN, I KNOW IT MUST FEEL THAT WAY. ME, JIM GORDON, COMING TO YOU, BRUCE WAYNE, AND SAYING THAT. BUT STILL, IT'S WHERE WE ARE.

I'M **BATMAN**. AND I NEED YOUR HELP.



BATMAN. I'VE SEEN YOU ON THE NEWS, YOU KNOW. FIGHTING CRIMINALS IN THAT NEW SUIT. IT'S IMPRESSIVE AND ADMIRABLE, MR. GORDON.

BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BATMAN ANYMORE.



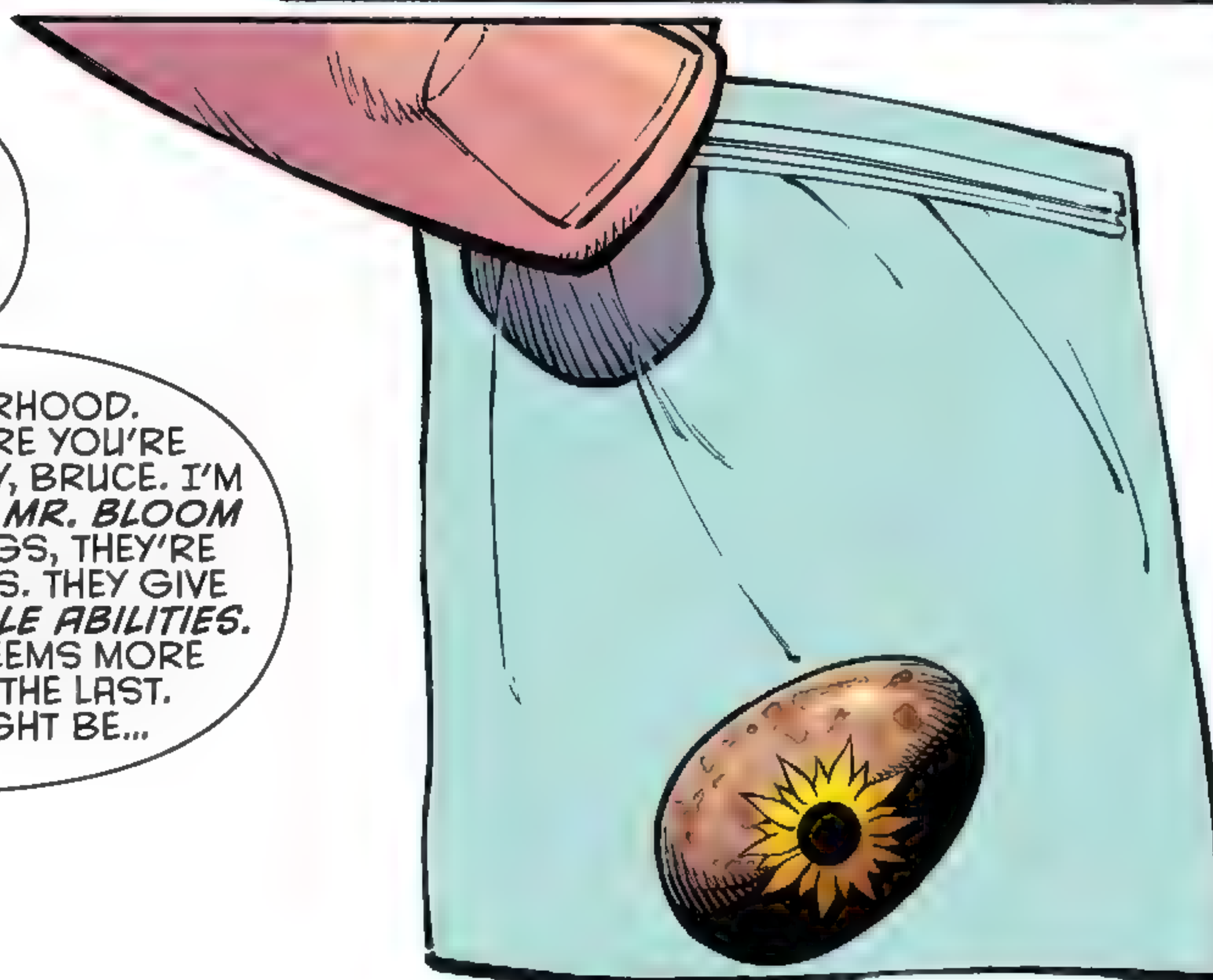
WELL, JUST...HUMOR ME. I WANT TO **SHOW YOU SOMETHING**.



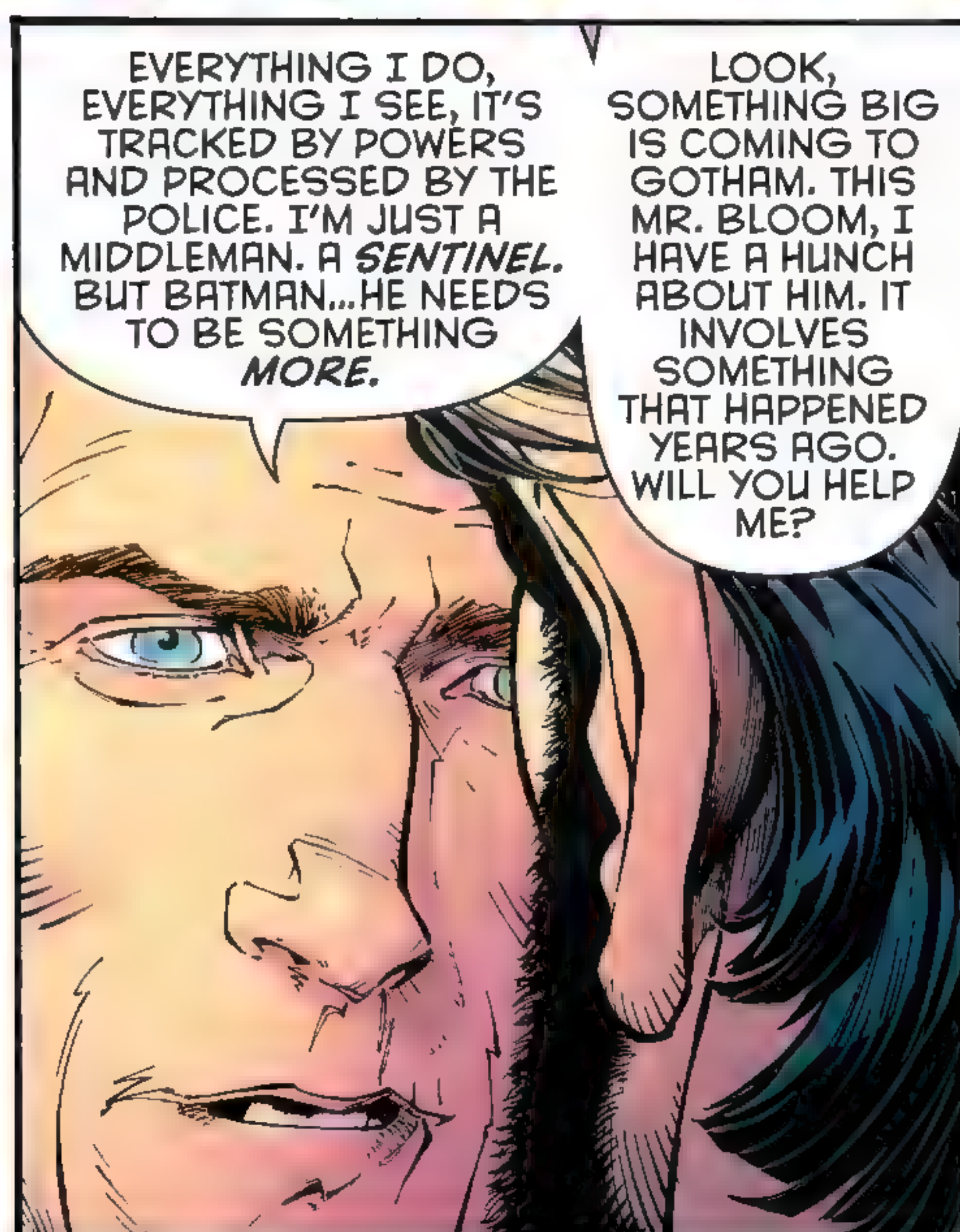
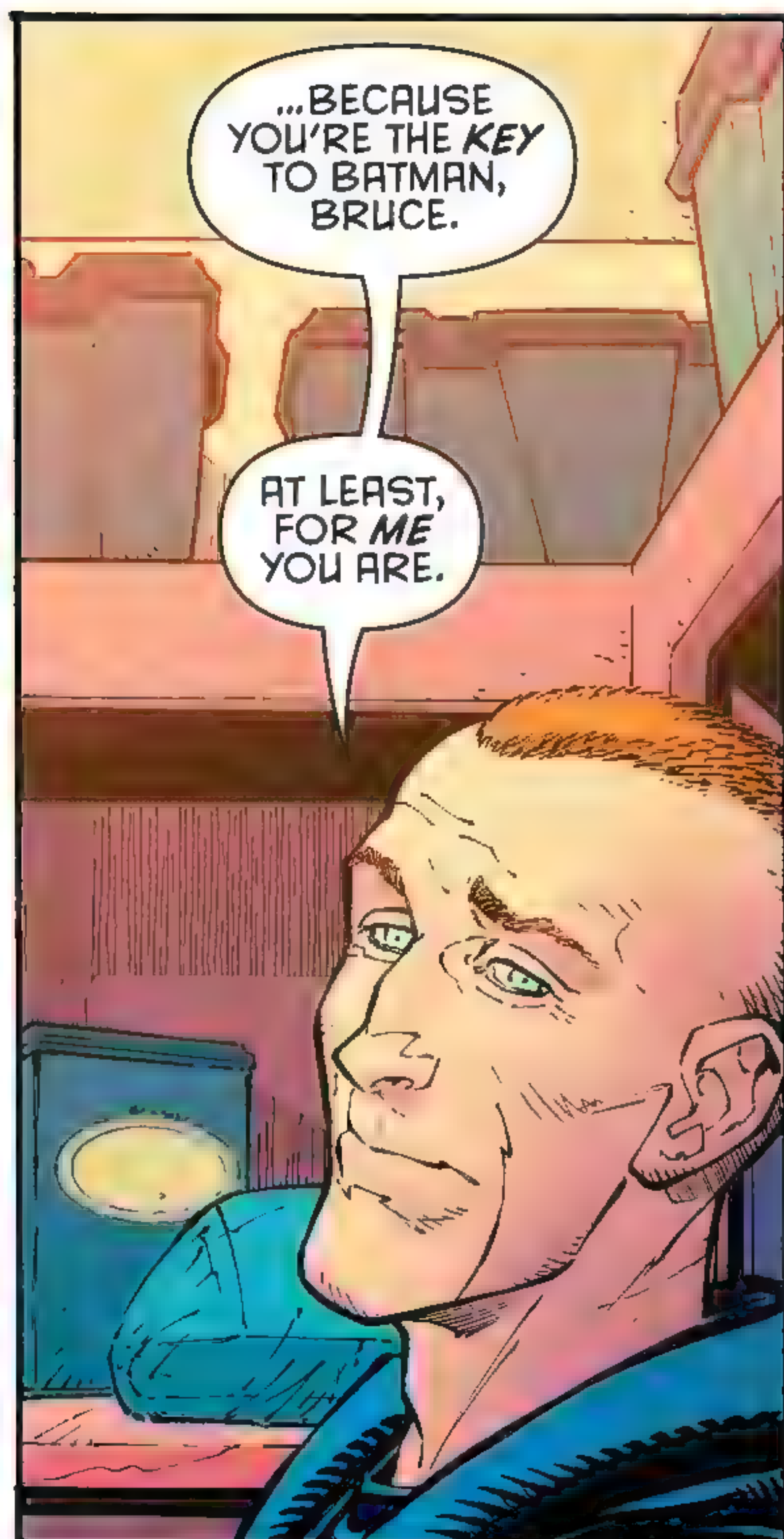
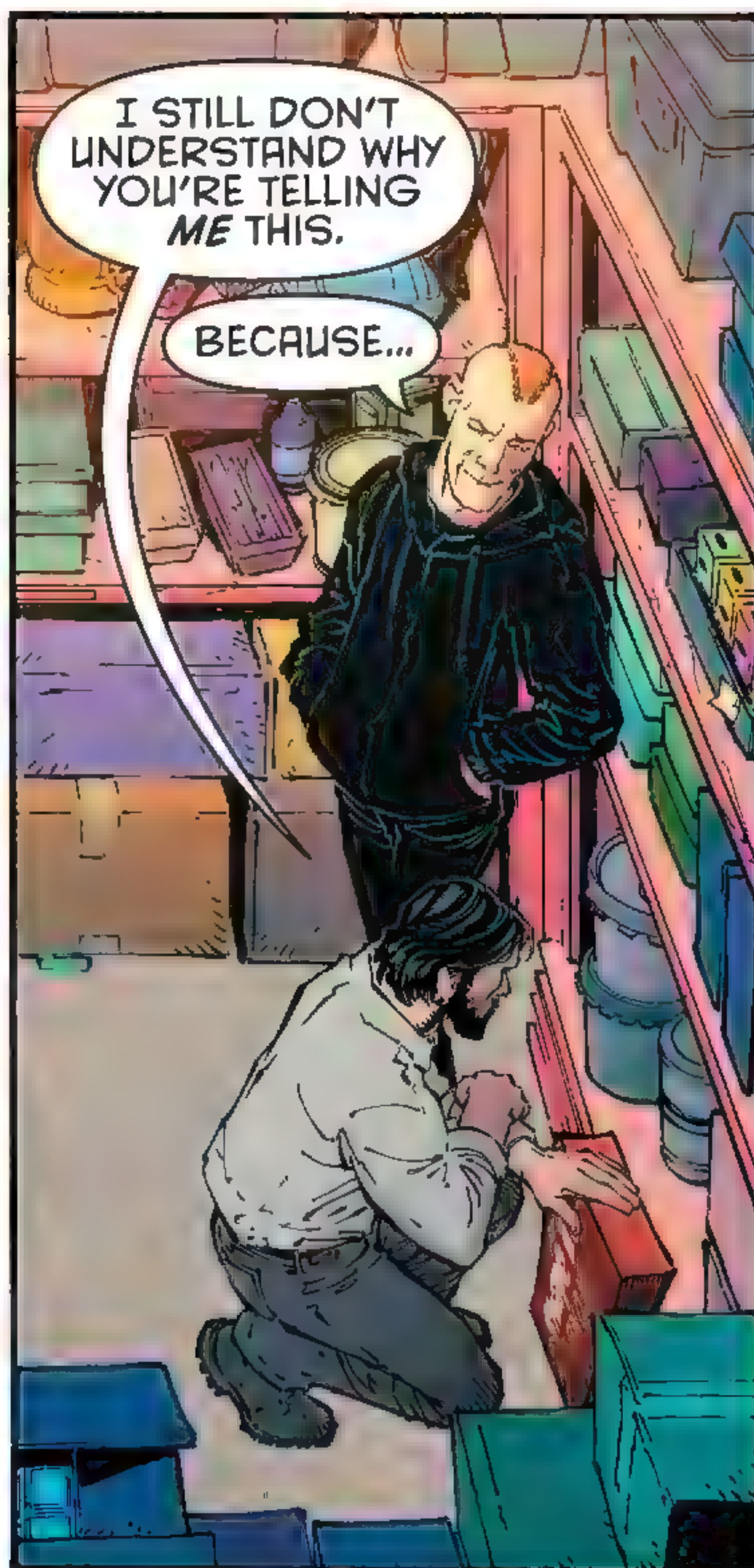
THIS THING, THIS "SEED," SOMEONE IS MAKING THESE AND SELLING THEM TO BAD PEOPLE IN THE NARROWS.

THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. RIGHT HERE, WHERE YOU'RE WORKING EVERY DAY, BRUCE. I'M NOT SURE WHO THIS **MR. BLOOM** IS, BUT THESE THINGS, THEY'RE POWERFUL WEAPONS. THEY GIVE THEIR USERS **TERRIBLE ABILITIES**. AND EACH SEED SEEMS MORE POWERFUL THAN THE LAST. SOON, THEY MIGHT BE...

I JUST... COULD USE YOUR HELP.







IT'S FUNNY, MR. GORDON. THIS REC CENTER? IT WAS SET UP BY LUCIUS FOX, A FRIEND OF MY FATHER'S. HE BUILT IT FOR ALL THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE NARROWS. THE CORNER. LITTLE CUBA...A SAFE PLACE FOR KIDS TO COME, TO PLAY. TO *TALK*.

WHEN LUCIUS OPENED THE DOORS, HE STARTED A POLICY. ON YOUR FIRST DAY HERE, YOU HAVE TO MAKE A *BRICK*. YOU CUT THE CLAY, YOU PAINT IT, YOU PUT IT IN THE KILN. BAKE IT. THEN YOU PUT IT OUT BACK. THERE'S A *WALL*. SOME BRICKS ARE FROM DECADES AGO.

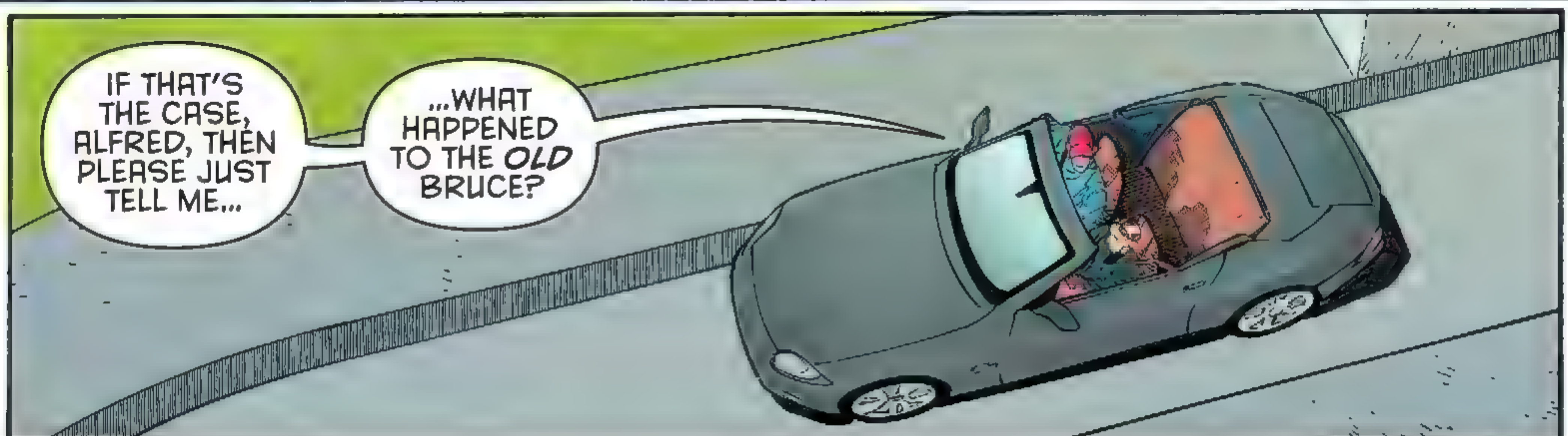
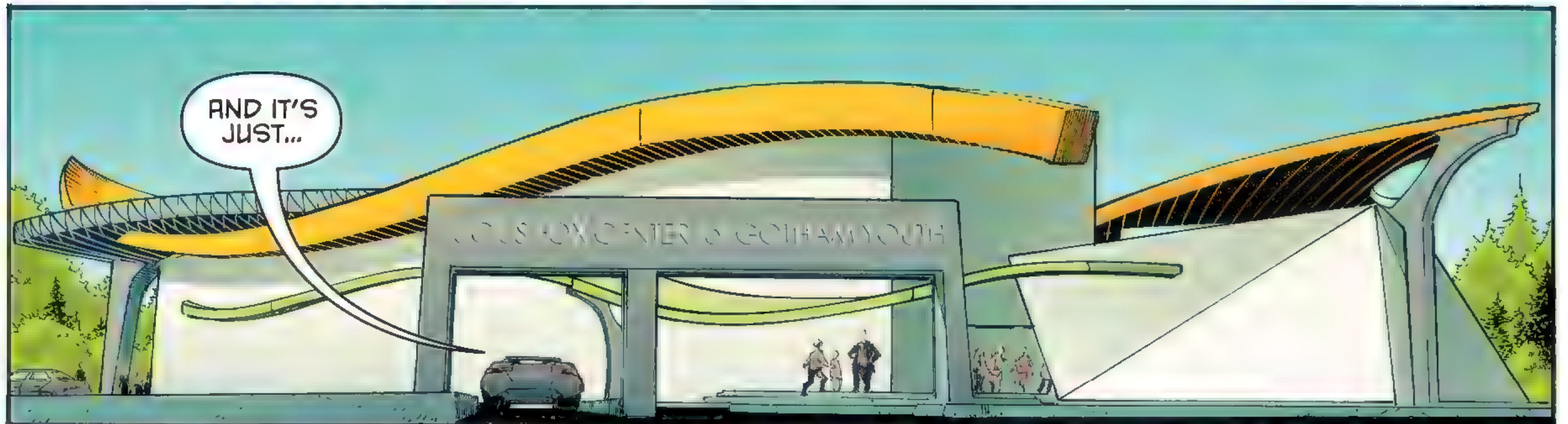
NOW, WITH THE WAY THIS NEIGHBORHOOD WAS WRECKED DURING THE JOKER'S ATTACK, A LOT OF THE KIDS ARE MISSING HOMES, FRIENDS, *FAMILY* MEMBERS...

BUT THEIR BRICKS ARE HERE WHEN THEY COME. THEY'RE ALWAYS OUT BACK, IN THE WALL.











"THEY SAY A PARENT CAN  
FEEL IT WHEN THEIR CHILD  
LEAVES THE EARTH.

"I NEVER  
BELIEVED IT.  
ALL THE TIMES  
BEFORE...

"BUT WHEN  
THAT CAVE  
COLLAPSED  
ON HIM AND  
THE JOKER,  
I...I *FELT* IT.

"THE OTHERS  
HAD BEEN  
HOPEFUL,  
WORKING IN  
SHIFTS, BUT  
I KNEW.

"THE PHONE CALL  
CAME THREE WEEKS  
AFTER HE WENT  
MISSING. I WAS  
WAITING FOR IT BY  
THE *FURNACE*, READY  
TO BURN ALL TRACES  
OF BATMAN'S  
MISSION.

"IT WAS *JULIA* WHO FOUND  
HIM. HIS BODY WAS INTACT,  
READY TO COME HOME.

"SO I DROVE  
TO THE SITE TO  
COLLECT HIM.

"THE MAN I'D CARED  
FOR AS A BABY, THEN A  
BOY, THEN AN *ANGRY*  
YOUNG MAN...

"I'D TAKE CARE  
OF HIM ONE LAST  
TIME, BEFORE  
LAYING HIM TO  
REST.

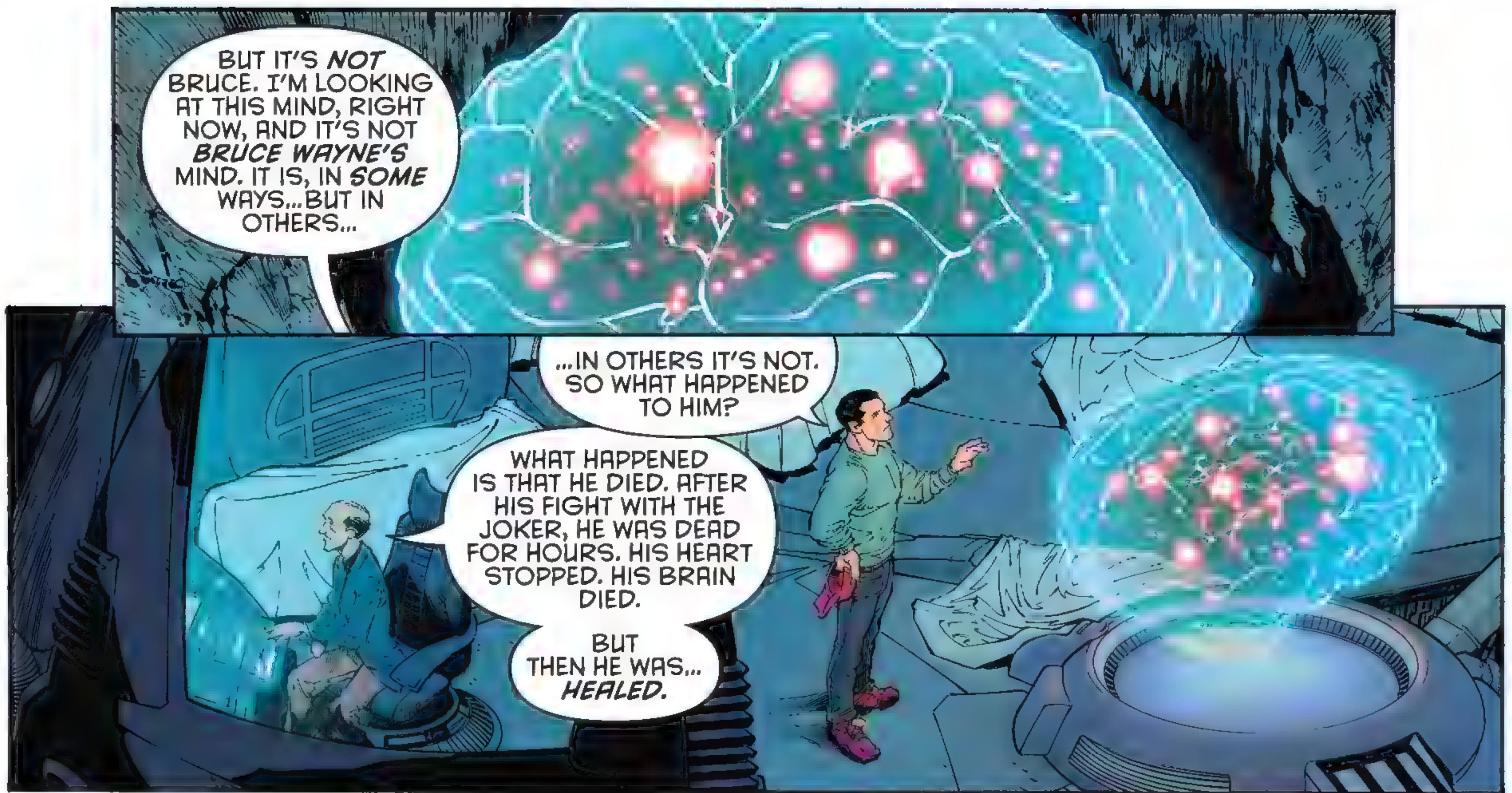
"BUT WHEN I  
ARRIVED...

"I  
SAW..."

"HE'D COME  
BACK TO *LIFE*.  
JULIA COULDN'T  
UNDERSTAND  
IT. SHE'D HAD  
HIM IN THE BAG,  
SHE'D BEEN  
ZIPPING HIM  
UP, WHEN...  
HE'D JUST  
WOKEN UP.

"MY BRUCE."



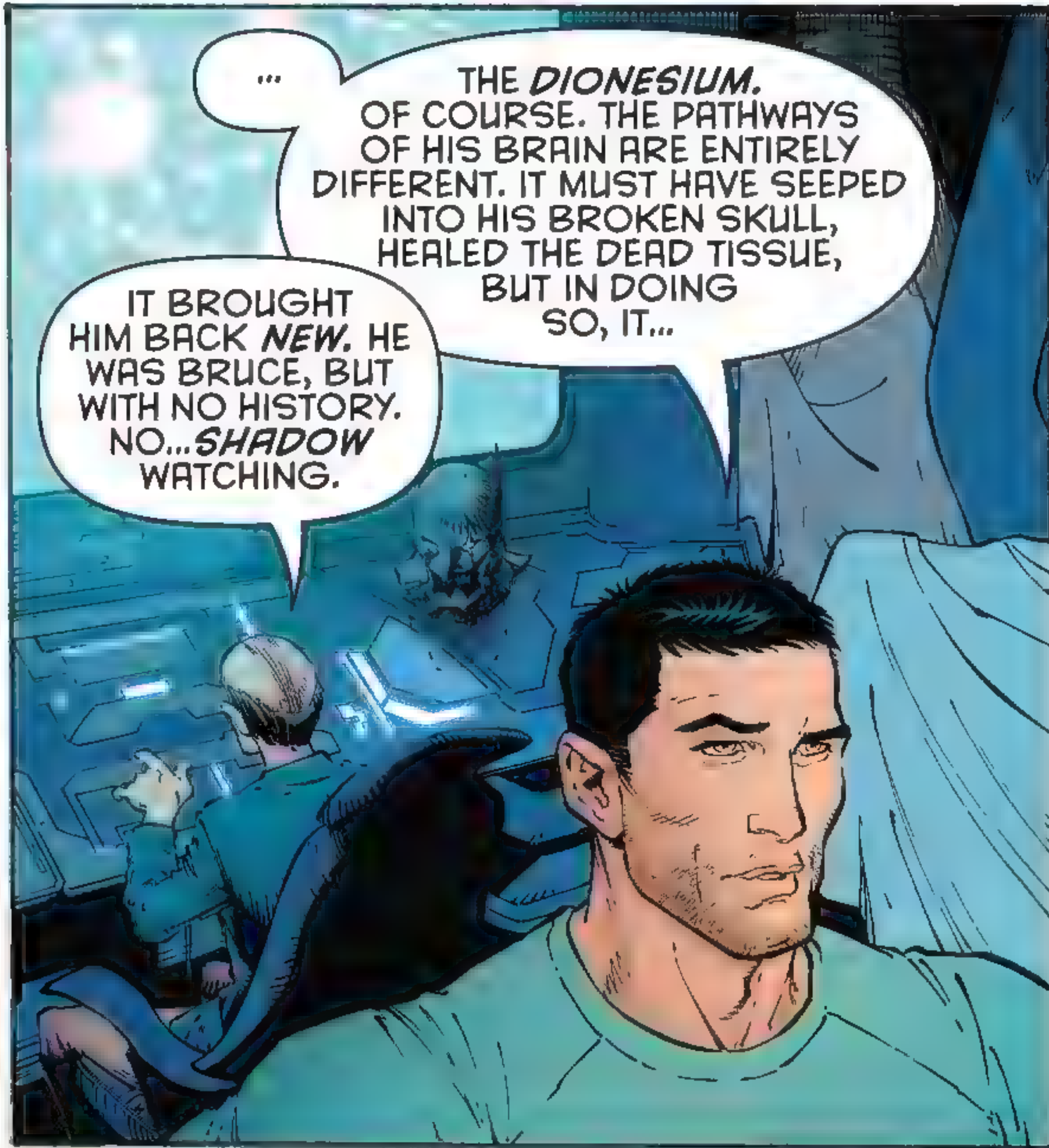


BUT IT'S *NOT* BRUCE. I'M LOOKING AT THIS MIND, RIGHT NOW, AND IT'S NOT *BRUCE WAYNE'S* MIND. IT IS, IN *SOME* WAYS...BUT IN OTHERS...

...IN OTHERS IT'S NOT. SO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT HE DIED. AFTER HIS FIGHT WITH THE JOKER, HE WAS DEAD FOR HOURS. HIS HEART STOPPED. HIS BRAIN DIED.

BUT THEN HE WAS... *HEALED.*



... THE *DIONESIUM*. OF COURSE. THE PATHWAYS OF HIS BRAIN ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. IT MUST HAVE SEEPED INTO HIS BROKEN SKULL, HEALED THE DEAD TISSUE, BUT IN DOING SO, IT...

IT BROUGHT HIM BACK *NEW*. HE WAS BRUCE, BUT WITH NO HISTORY. NO...*SHADOW* WATCHING.



BUT YOU *TOLD* HIM, ALFRED. YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT HIS LIFE.

I DID. IT WAS ONE OF THE WORST THINGS I'VE EVER HAD TO DO.

"TO WALK THIS MAN THROUGH THE *TRAGEDY* OF HIS OWN LIFE AGAIN. TO TAKE HIM, UNFORMED, THIS PERSON YOU LOVE, AND TWIST THE *CLAY* OF THEM INTO A MALFORMED THING. WORKING MY WAY TO *BATMAN*."

"I TOLD HIM HE'D BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT DURING THE JOKER'S ATTACK, AND THEN I STARTED AT THE BEGINNING. I TOLD HIM ABOUT HIS CHILDHOOD, ABOUT HIS *PARENTS'* DEATH. I TOLD HIM HOW WHEN THEY DIED, HE'D BECOME ANGRY, DRIVEN... HOW HE'D TURNED THAT INTO FUEL TO *HELP* THE CITY."



"HOW HE'D BUILT WAYNE ENTERPRISES INTO SOMETHING *HEROIC* AND SPECIAL."

"HOW HE'D BEEN A *SYMBOL*. ALL THE WHILE, WORKING MY WAY TO THE LAST TRUTH. A TERRIBLE MONOLOGUE ON A TERRIBLE STAGE."



"AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL HIM THE LAST TRUTH, TO OPEN THAT LAST, WORST DOOR, WHEN--"

STOP.

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH, ALFRED.

BUT THERE'S MORE, BRUCE.

I'M SURE THERE IS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS ACCIDENT DID TO ME, BUT I'M... I'M NOT THE PERSON YOU'RE DESCRIBING. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE. I KNOW I LOVED YOU. I LOOK AT THESE PICTURES, AND I KNOW I LOVED *THEM*. BUT I DON'T FEEL THEIR LOSS.

I FEEL TERRIBLE FOR THAT BOY IN THE ALLEY, BUT I CAN'T BE WHO HE WAS. IT'S NOT WHO I AM.

"FOR TWO DAYS, I DIDN'T SEE HIM.

"AND THEN, ON THE THIRD DAY, HE REAPPEARED AND SAID SOMETHING THAT LIFTED MY HEART."

I MAY NOT BE THE MAN I WAS, BUT I WANT TO HELP. IN MY OWN WAY, THOUGH. FACE-TO-FACE. MY MOTHER WORKED IN SCHOOLS. MY FATHER WORKED IN CITY HOSPITALS. THAT FEELS RIGHT. THAT FEELS LIKE ME.

...  
WELL, THEN...WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU, MASTER BRUCE?

"NOW THIS CITY, MR. KENT, IT NEVER GIVES ANYTHING BACK. *NEVER*."

"BUT I SWEAR TO YOU, NOT A MINUTE AFTER BRUCE SAID THIS TO ME, THE DOORBELL RANG.

"A *MISS JULIE MADISON*, COMING TO CHECK ON BRUCE. SHE'D HEARD HE'D HAD AN ACCIDENT DURING THE ATTACK. A GIRLFRIEND FROM HIS YOUTH. WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN THE NARROWS..."

"THE CITY...IT NEVER GIVES. BUT IT GAVE."



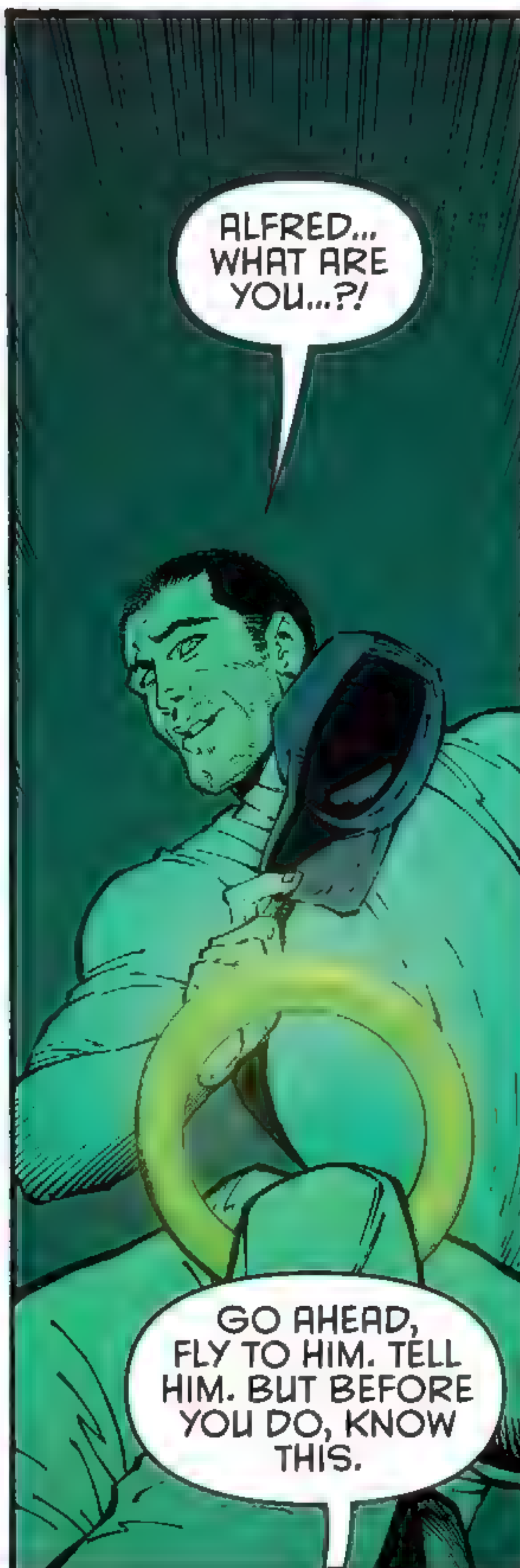


YOU HAVE TO TELL HIM, ALFRED. NOT JUST THAT HE'S BRUCE WAYNE, BUT THAT HE'S **BATMAN**.

I'M SORRY, BUT IF YOU DON'T, I WILL.



IS THAT SO?



ALFRED... WHAT ARE YOU...?!

GO AHEAD, FLY TO HIM. TELL HIM. BUT BEFORE YOU DO, KNOW THIS.

BRUCE WAYNE HAS NO COMBAT SKILLS. NO **DETECTION** SKILLS. EVERY BIT OF HIS FIFTEEN YEARS OF **TRAINING** AND EXPERIENCE AS **BATMAN** IS GONE.

AND IT'S NOT RECOVERABLE, BECAUSE THE MEMORIES WERE **NEVER THERE**. IT'S A NEW BRAIN.

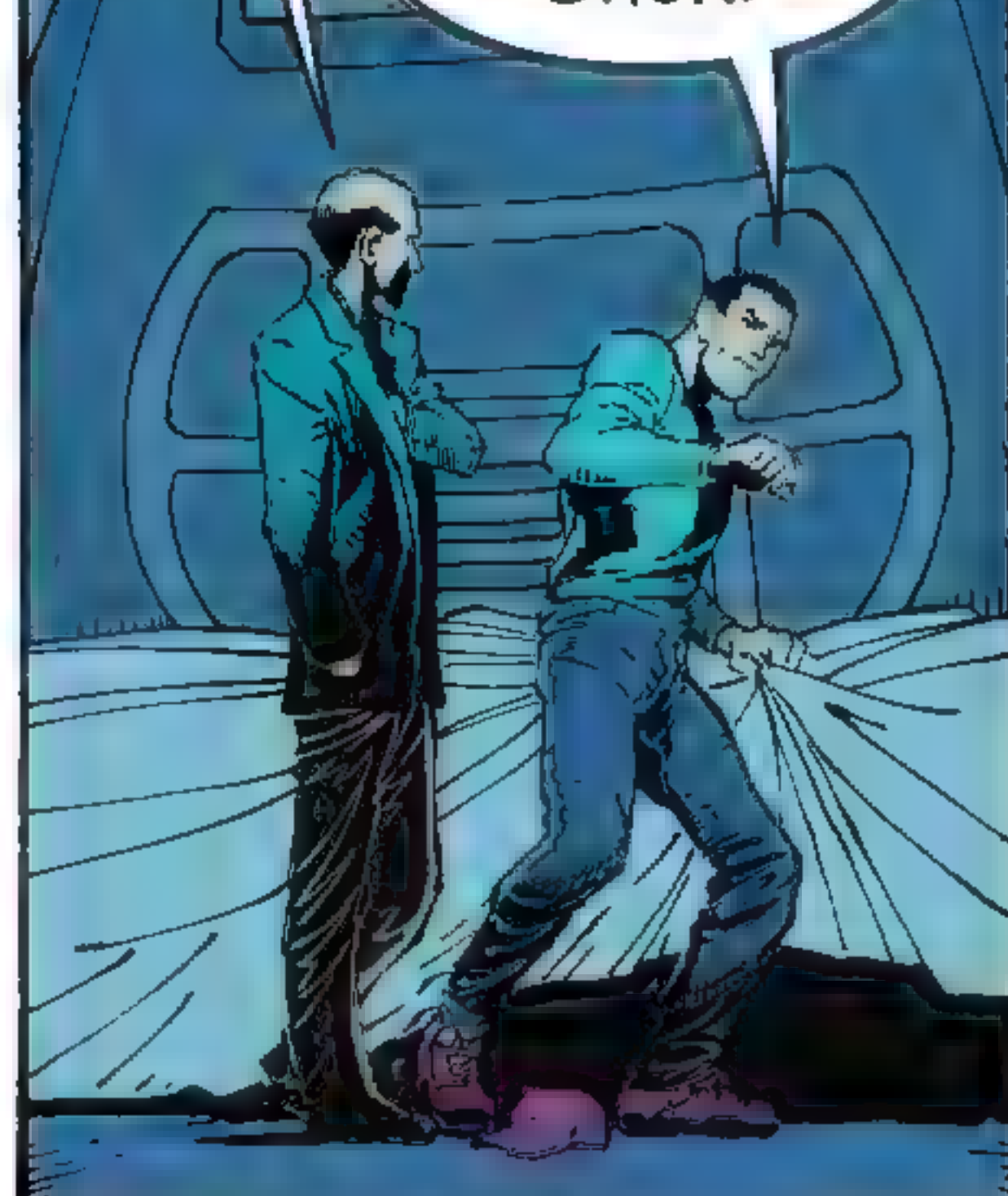
ASKING HIM TO BE **BATMAN** IS LIKE ME TELLING YOU TO **FLY** UNDER THIS RING'S GLOW. HE IS **POWERLESS**, AND TO WEAR THE COWL WOULD BE A DEATH SENTENCE.



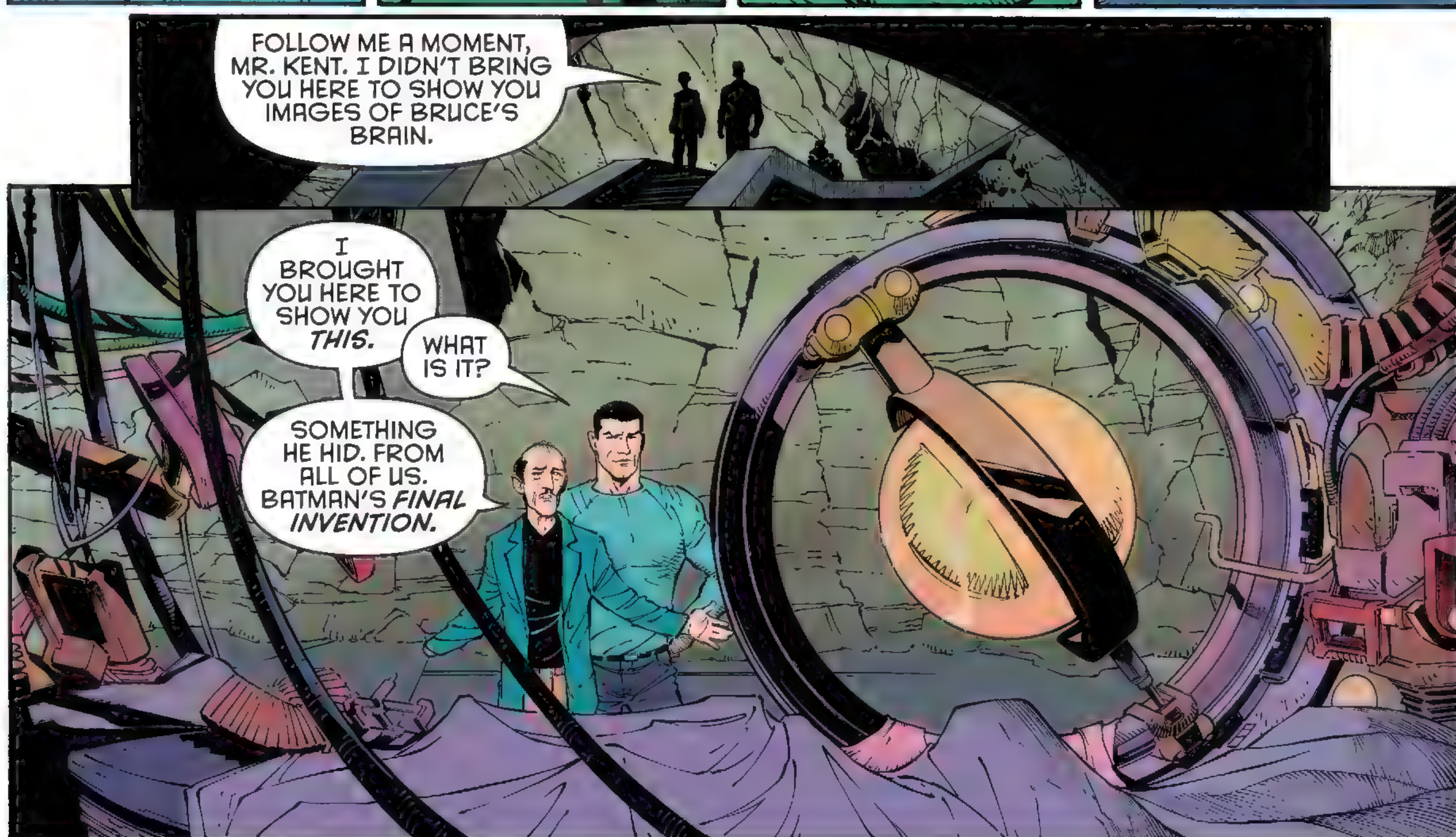
YOU'RE THINKING HE CAN RE-LEARN IT. MAYBE HE CAN, OVER YEARS. BUT REMEMBER THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...

...**BATMAN** WAS BORN FROM THE SCREAMS OF A YOUNG BOY IN AN ALLEY. FROM HIS PRIMAL PAIN AND ANGER. FROM A SCAR. BUT THAT **SCAR** IS GONE, MR. KENT. HEALED.

ALFRED, YOU CAN SHOW ME IMAGES OF HIS BRAIN, BUT HE'S **BATMAN**. HE'S ALWAYS GOT A WAY OUT. A WAY BACK.



FOLLOW ME A MOMENT, MR. KENT. I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO SHOW YOU IMAGES OF BRUCE'S BRAIN.



I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO SHOW YOU **THIS**.

WHAT IS IT?

SOMETHING HE HID. FROM ALL OF US. **BATMAN'S FINAL INVENTION**.

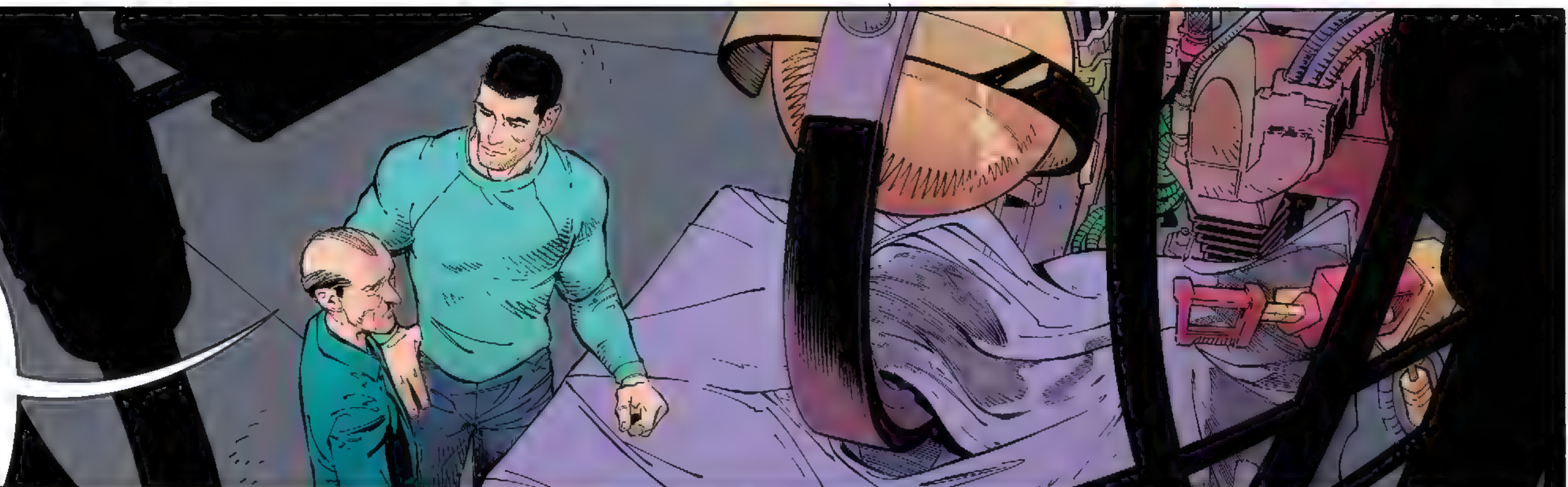




...  
IS THIS...?

IT'S A MACHINE MEANT TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE A **BATMAN**. A MACHINE THAT HE WAS WORKING ON IN SECRET WHEN HE DIED.

IT WOULD USE HIS DNA TO GROW EACH SUCCESSIVE BRUCE TO AGE TWENTY-SEVEN, INSTILL IN HIM ALL THE ORIGINAL **BRUCE'S** PAIN, ALL HIS TRAINING, ALL HIS MEMORIES, UP TO THE MOMENT HE DECIDED TO BECOME **BATMAN**.



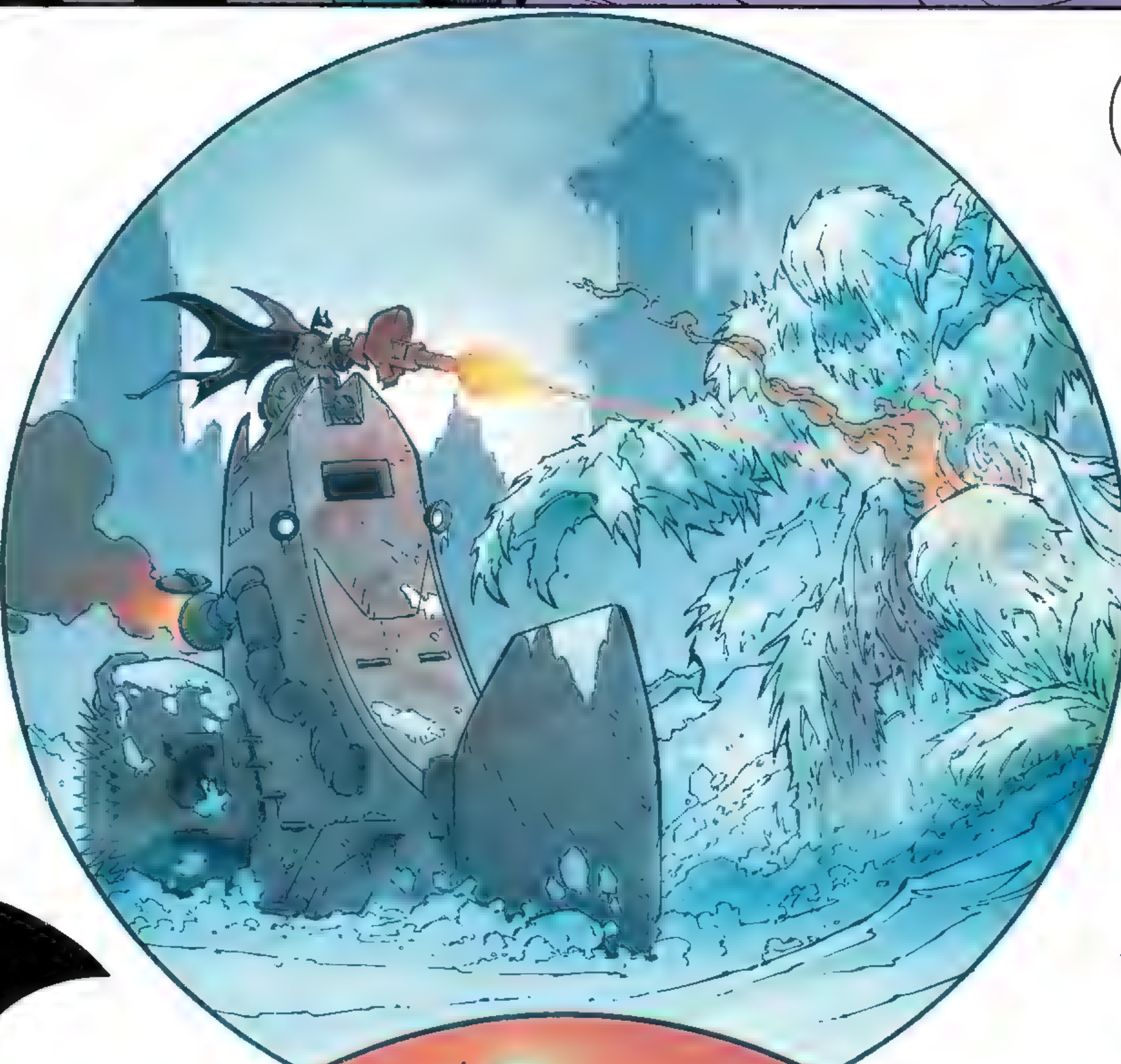
PICTURE IT...

...PICTURE AN ENDLESS CHAIN OF TRAGEDY. EACH VERSION OF HIM SUBJECTED TO THE SAME HORRORS.

BRUCE KILLED BY BATMAN SO THAT HE, BATMAN, COULD BE BORN AGAIN. AN **UNNATURAL** GENEALOGY OF THEM.

"YES, FATHER, I SHALL BECOME A BAT," BUT SPOKEN BY BRUCE TO BATMAN, FATHERED BY BATMAN. ONE REPLACING THE NEXT, GENERATION TO GENERATION.

BUT EVEN HE, WITH ALL HIS GENIUS, HE NEVER EVEN CAME CLOSE TO FINISHING IT.

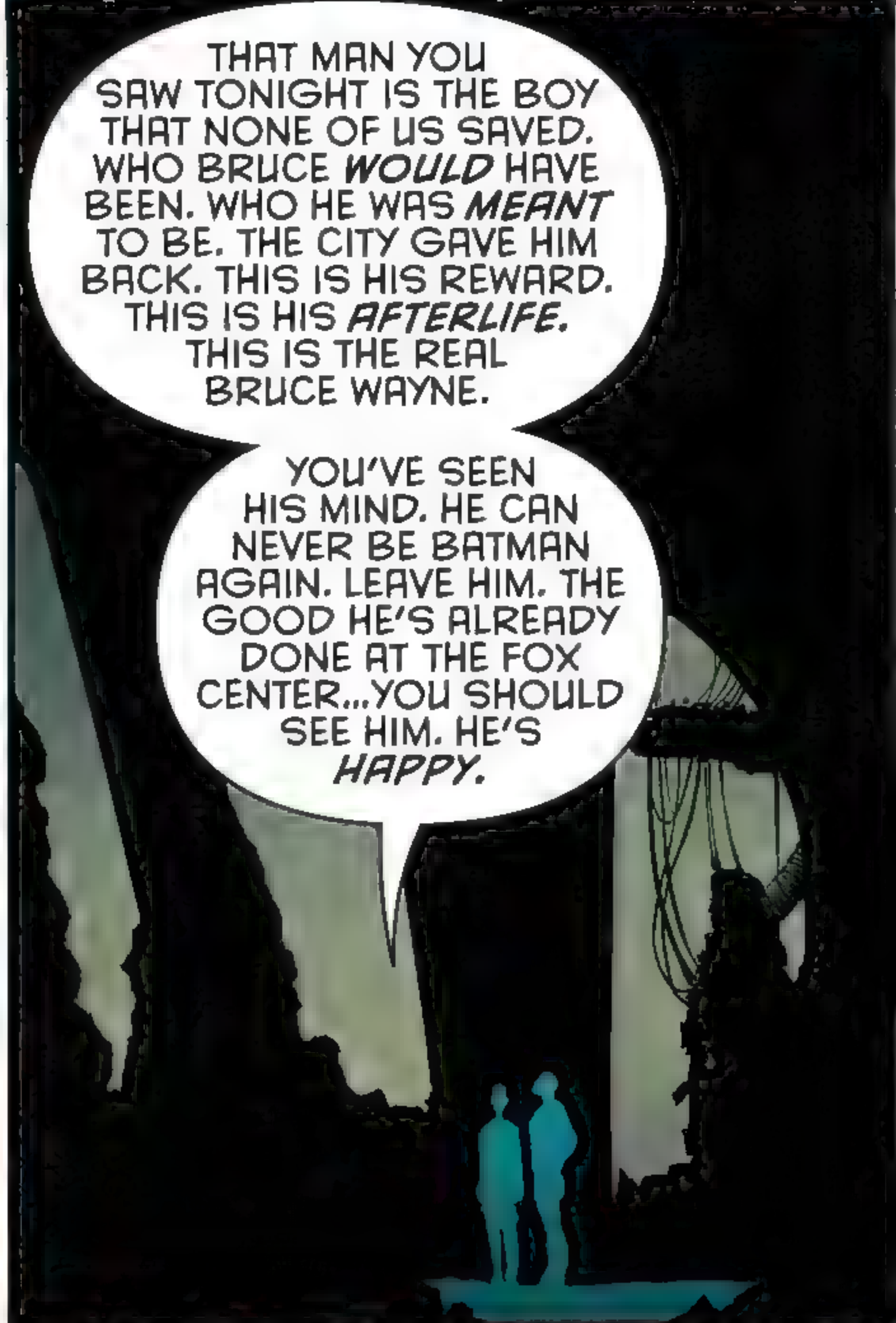


BECAUSE HE WASN'T MEANT TO LIVE FOREVER.

THE CIRCLE WAS MEANT TO BE BROKEN, AND NOW IT HAS BEEN.

DON'T YOU SEE, CLARK? **BATMAN** DIED. AND **BRUCE WAYNE** CAME BACK.

ALFRED...



THAT MAN YOU SAW TONIGHT IS THE BOY THAT NONE OF US SAVED. WHO BRUCE **WOULD** HAVE BEEN. WHO HE WAS **MEANT** TO BE. THE CITY GAVE HIM BACK. THIS IS HIS REWARD. THIS IS HIS **AFTERLIFE**. THIS IS THE REAL BRUCE WAYNE.

YOU'VE SEEN HIS MIND. HE CAN NEVER BE BATMAN AGAIN. LEAVE HIM. THE GOOD HE'S ALREADY DONE AT THE FOX CENTER...YOU SHOULD SEE HIM. HE'S **HAPPY**.



LET HIM LIVE, MR. KENT. CONSIGN THE REST TO THE **FURNACE**. PLEASE...



"...LET SOMEONE ELSE SUFFER FOR THIS CURSED CITY."

HI, THERE.

I READ YOU. YOU'RE CHARGED. FIRING IN THREE, TWO, ONE...

POW

THE CHARGE CAUSES THE MOLECULES TO CONTRACT AGAINST YOUR FINGERS...

...SHRINKING THE GLASS. NO NEED TO CUT OR SHATTER THE PANE.

WITH GREAT STICKINESS COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY...

WELL, DON'T GET USED TO IT. THAT ONE CHARGE WAS PRETTY MUCH ALL I CAN MANAGE WITHOUT ALERTING POWERS TO THE SUIT'S ABSENCE.

YOU'LL NEED TO USE IT AS A COSTUME, NOTHING MORE.

I CAN DO THAT. I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HALF THE FUNCTIONS IN THIS THING YET ANYWAY.

FEET WARMERS?

YOU'RE JOKING.

AM I? MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE BIG PRESENTATION TONIGHT. THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RIGHT NOW, ISN'T IT? GERI IS LIKELY LOOKING TO SORT YOU OUT, JIM.

SO BE IT. WE NEED TO LEARN ABOUT MR. BLOOM.

AND THIS PLACE... IF QI TSU DID BUSINESS WITH HIM, THERE'LL BE A RECORD OF BLOOM HERE. AS LEADER OF THE *DEVIL PIGS*, HE'D HAVE TO RECORD EVERYTHING, SEND THE MATERIAL TO HIGHER-UPS OVERSEAS.



THAT'S  
SOME GIANT  
CAVIAR YOU'RE  
PASSING.

I'LL SAVE YOU SOME. THE  
DEVIL PIGS MADE THEIR NAME  
RUNNING *HATCHERIES* LIKE  
THIS. SMUGGLING  
CONTRABAND INSIDE  
*FROZEN FISH*.

THE PIGS HAVE  
BEEN GOTHAM STAPLES  
FOR NEARLY A HUNDRED  
YEARS. THEM, THE WHISPER  
GANG. THE GREENLINE FOURS,  
PREVIOUSLY THE FOUR-FIVES...  
THESE GANGS GO BACK.  
THEY'RE EMBEDDED IN  
GOTHAM'S STREETS,  
ITS HISTORY.

AS  
COMMISSIONER,  
I DID SOME DAMAGE  
TO THEM. MORE  
THROUGH *OUTREACH*  
THAN ARRESTS,  
BUT STILL.

THE LAST YEAR,  
WITH WHAT HAPPENED  
TO ME, BEING *ARRESTED*,  
THEN THE DESTRUCTION  
OF JOKER'S ENDGAME...  
IT'S LIKE WE'RE BACK  
TO SQUARE ONE  
LATELY.

STILL, THESE  
DIFFERENT GANGS.  
THEY'D EAT EACH  
OTHER ALIVE  
BEFOR--

Wahap

LORD,  
GOD.

TELL ME  
THOSE WEREN'T  
HORNS ON A  
SHARK.

SOMEONE  
CALL PETA.

BUT AS I WAS  
SAYING...THESE  
GANGS HATE  
EACH OTHER.

THEY HAVE  
FOR DECADES.  
HOW THE HELL IS  
THIS MR. BLOOM  
GETTING THEM  
ALL TO COME  
TO HIM? AND  
*WHERE* IS  
HE?

Ah.

NOW.  
*WHO* ARE  
YOU...?

A  
FRIEND.

TAKTAK  
TAK





HE'S A FRIEND  
TO ALL OF US. HE  
MAKES US THINGS.  
YOU'LL SEE.



AW, I MADE YOU  
SOMETHING, TOO, Q/.  
COME HERE, I'LL GIVE  
IT TO YOU.



BATMAN,  
THEY'RE USING  
SOME KIND OF  
**BLOCKER...** I  
CAN'T GET YOU  
INTO STEALTH  
MODE. IT'S LIKE  
THEY KNOW THE--  
FREQUENCY.  
LIKE THEY'RE  
ON TO US.



HEH. NO MORE  
TRICKS. NO BIG  
SUIT. JUST YOU...



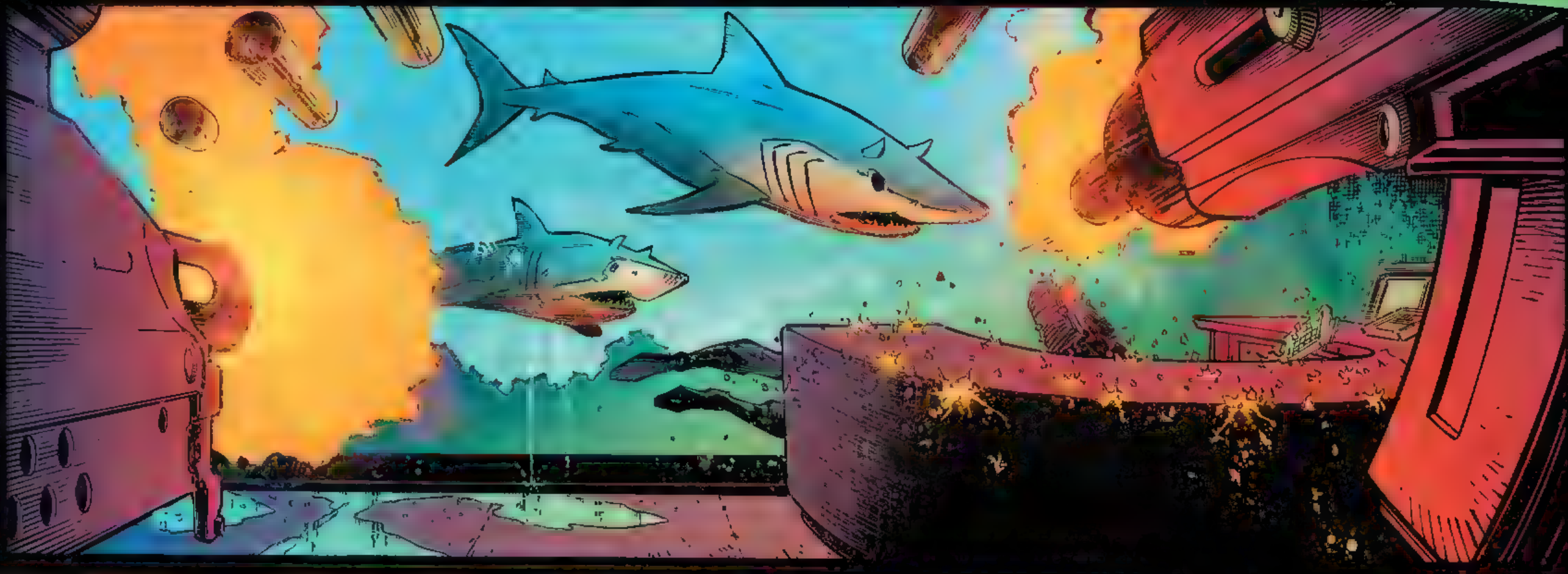
...AND  
US.

TELL ME,  
"BATMAN," HAVE  
YOU EVER SEEN  
ROBOCOP?

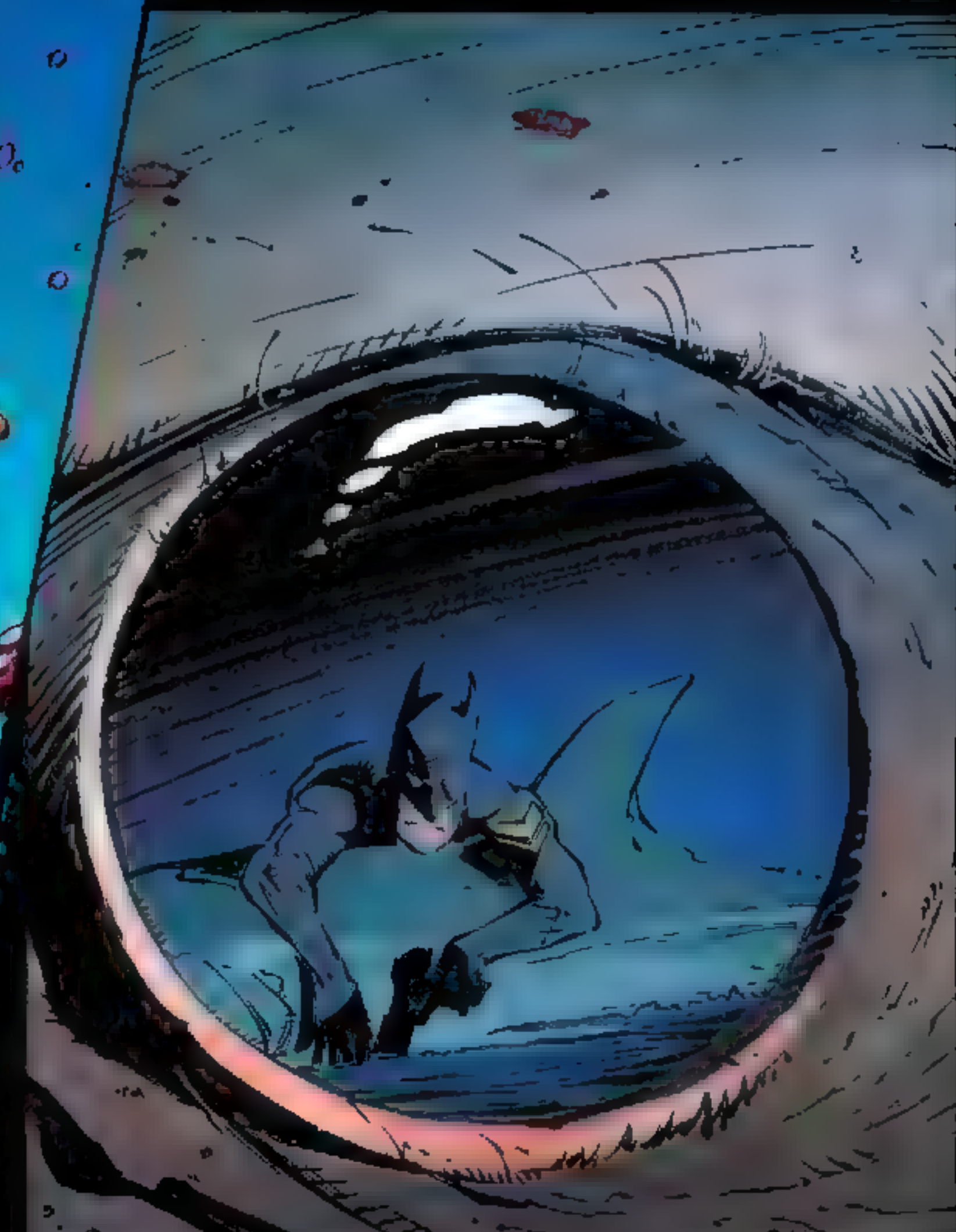
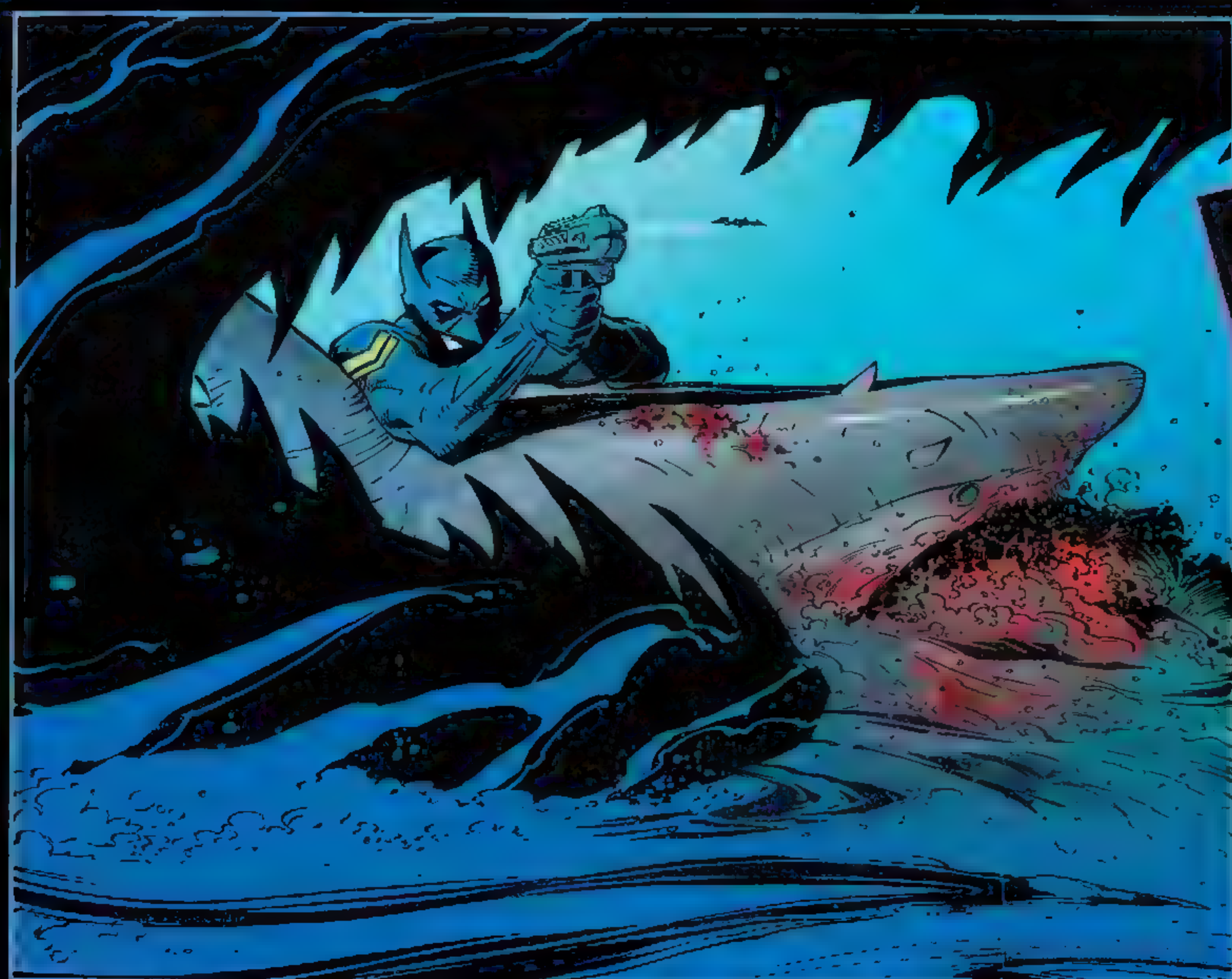
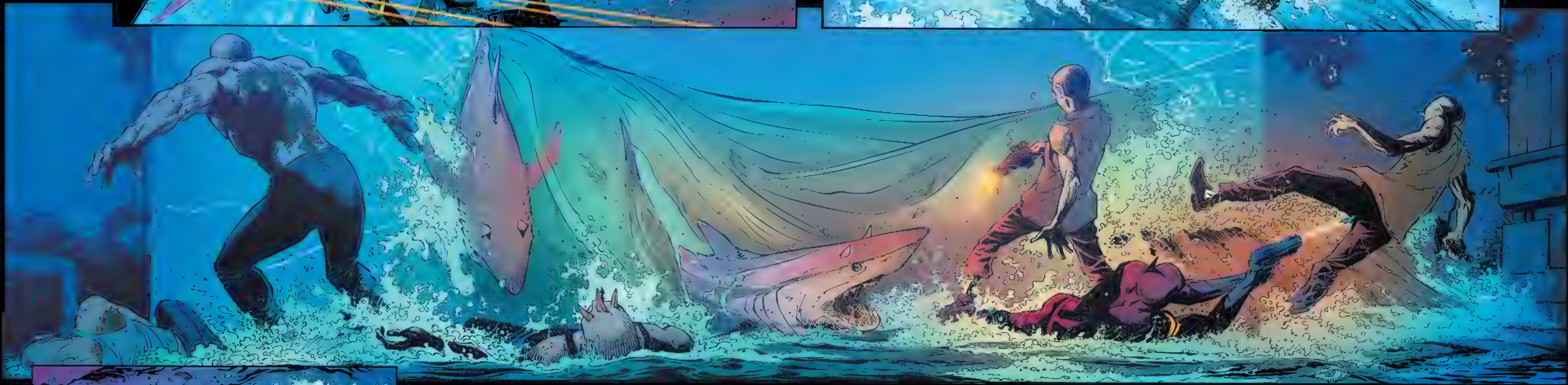
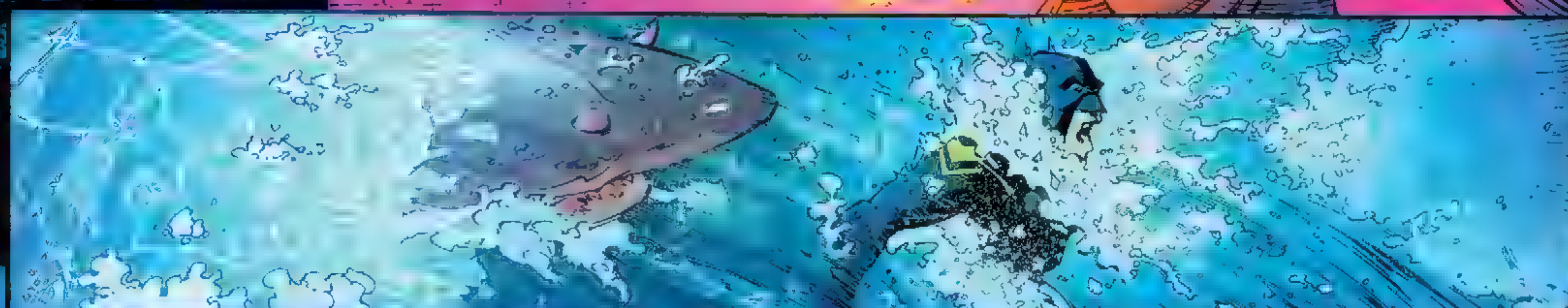
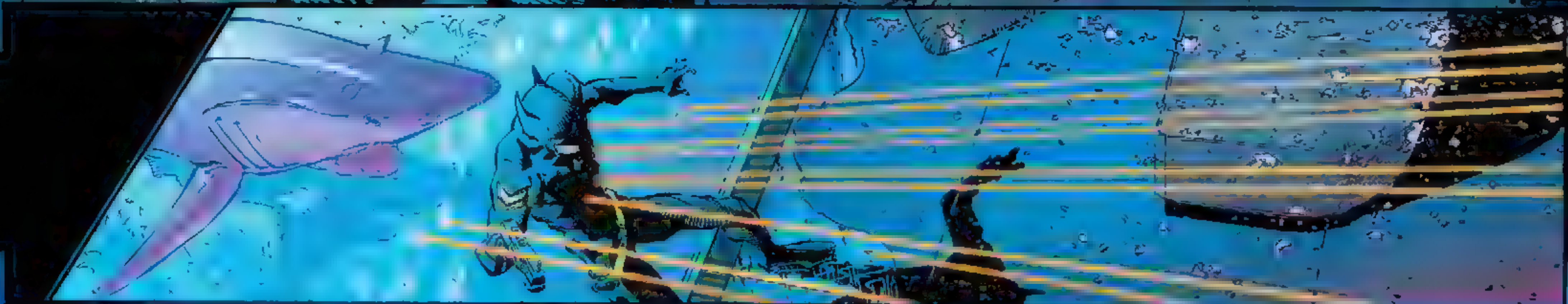
THERE  
ARE SEVEN  
PIGS. YOU DON'T  
HAVE ENOUGH  
BATARANGS  
TO--

DON'T  
WORRY...

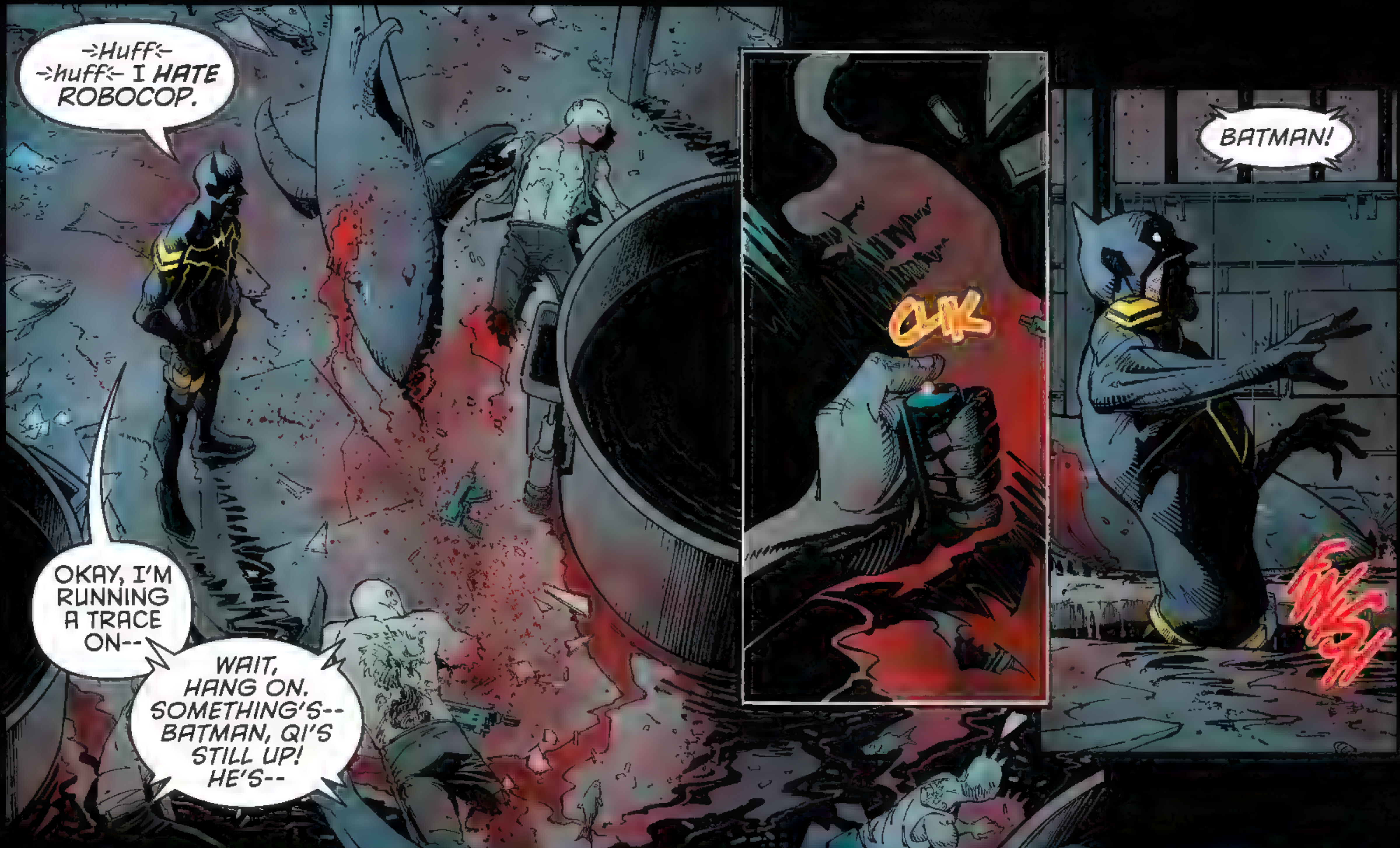












~Huff~  
~huff~ I HATE  
ROBOCOP.

BATMAN!

OKAY, I'M  
RUNNING  
A TRACE  
ON--

WAIT,  
HANG ON.  
SOMETHING'S--  
BATMAN, QI'S  
STILL UP!  
HE'S--



ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT? THE  
READINGS ON  
THE ROOM...

~Ugh~ I'M FINE.  
IT'S AN INDUSTRIAL  
FURNACE. FOR DESTROYING  
EVIDENCE. STEEL WALLS,  
LEAD-BACKED. NO WAY OUT.



GOOD  
GOD, THE  
TEMPERATURE...

TWO  
HUNDRED AND  
~Ugh~...RISING.  
FAST. NO  
EXIT.

BATMAN,  
THE SUIT CAN'T  
WITHSTAND THAT!  
YOU'RE GOING TO  
BE COOKED  
ALIVE!



I'M  
COMING IN,  
I'M GOING  
TO--



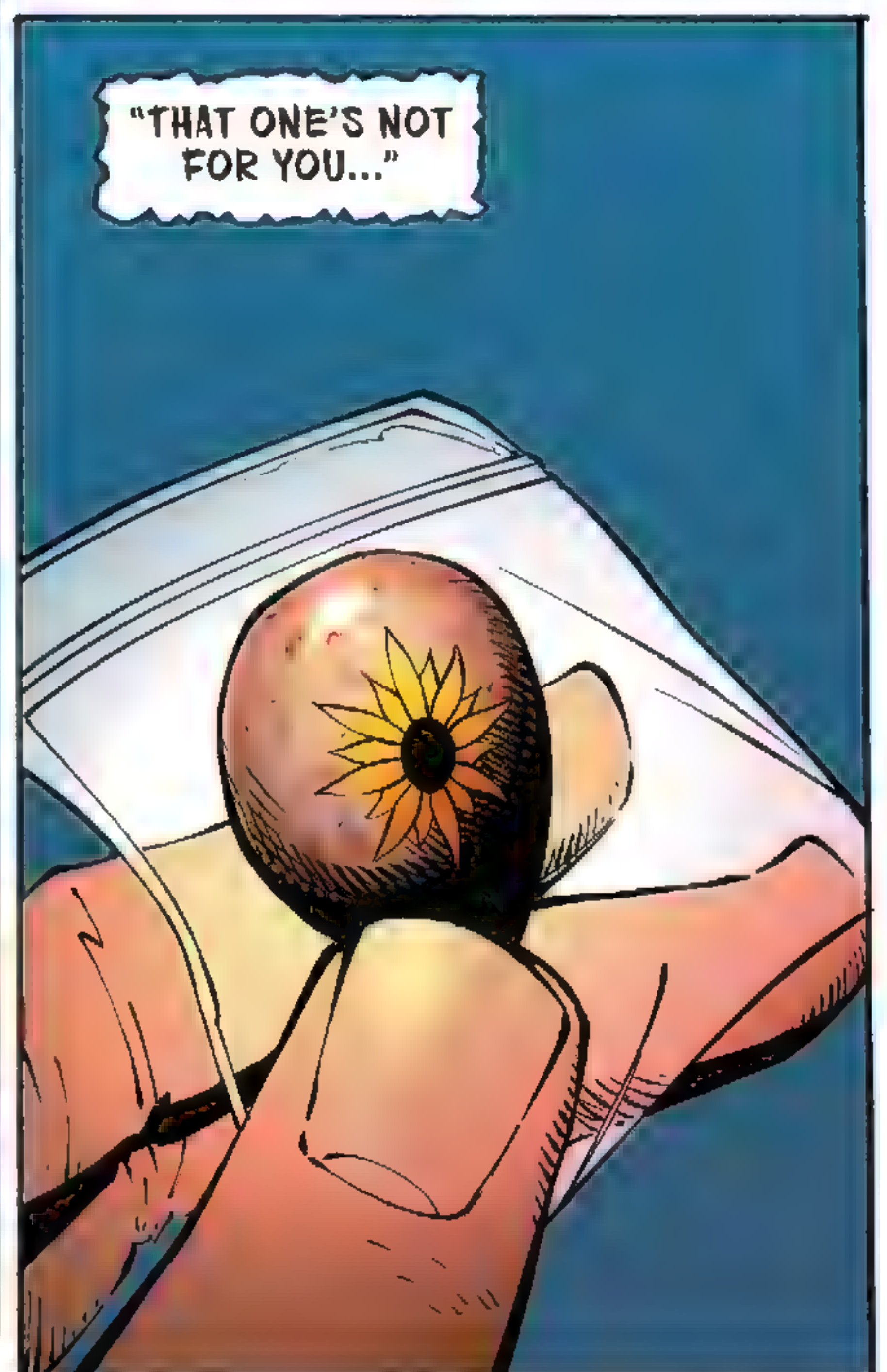
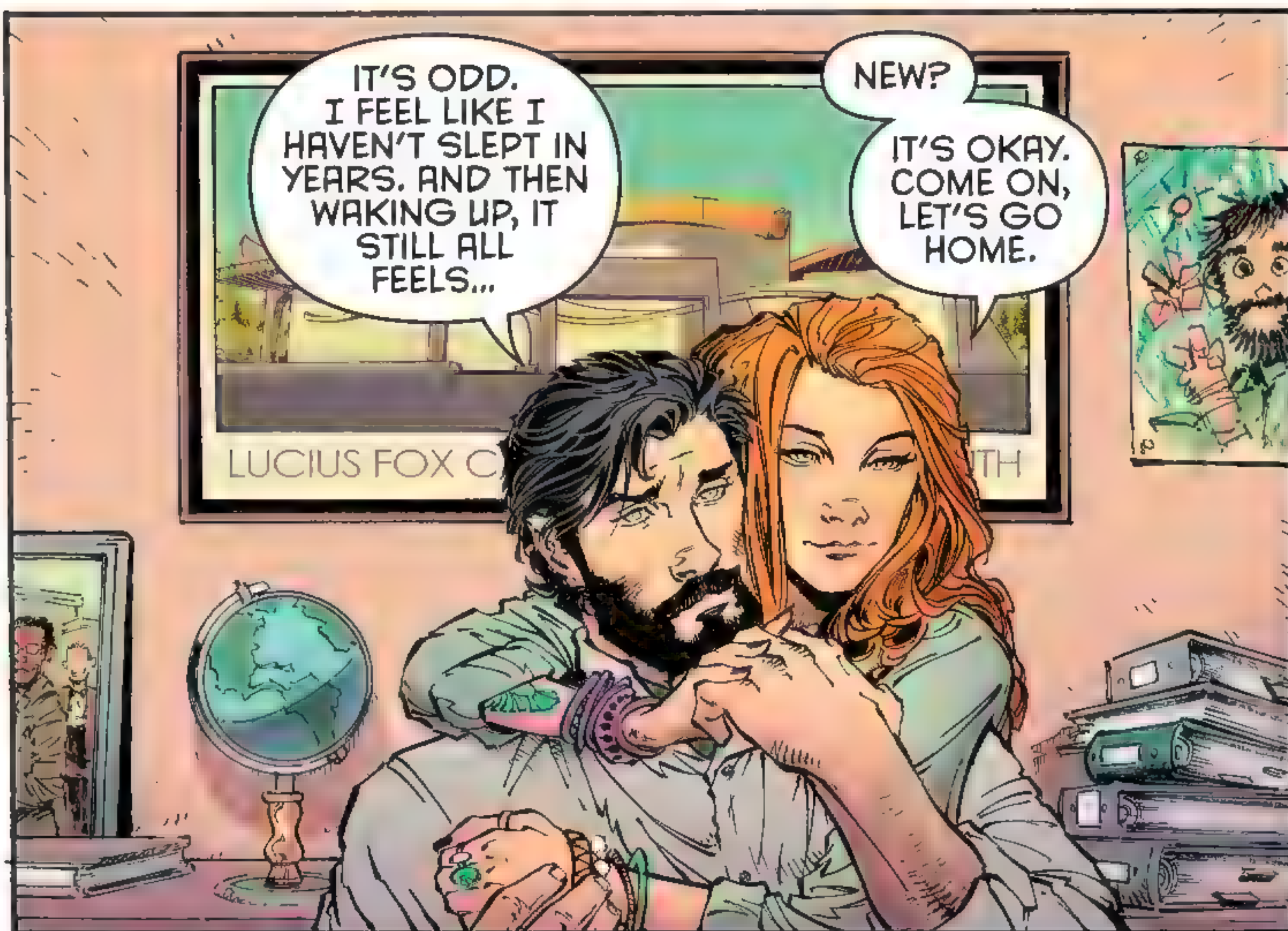
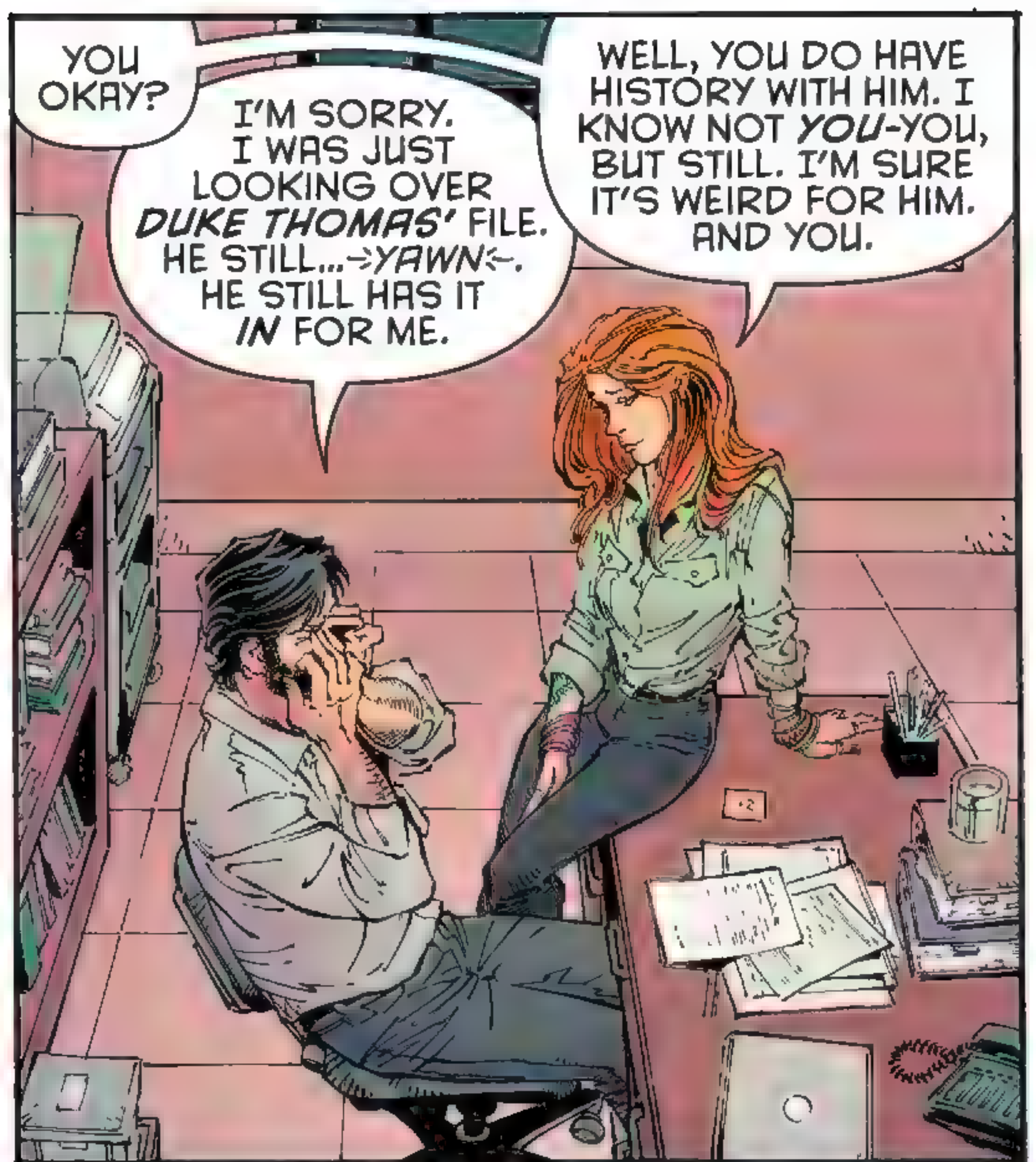
~Ugh!~



~Huff huff~  
JULIA! JULIA,  
COME IN!

"COME IN..."







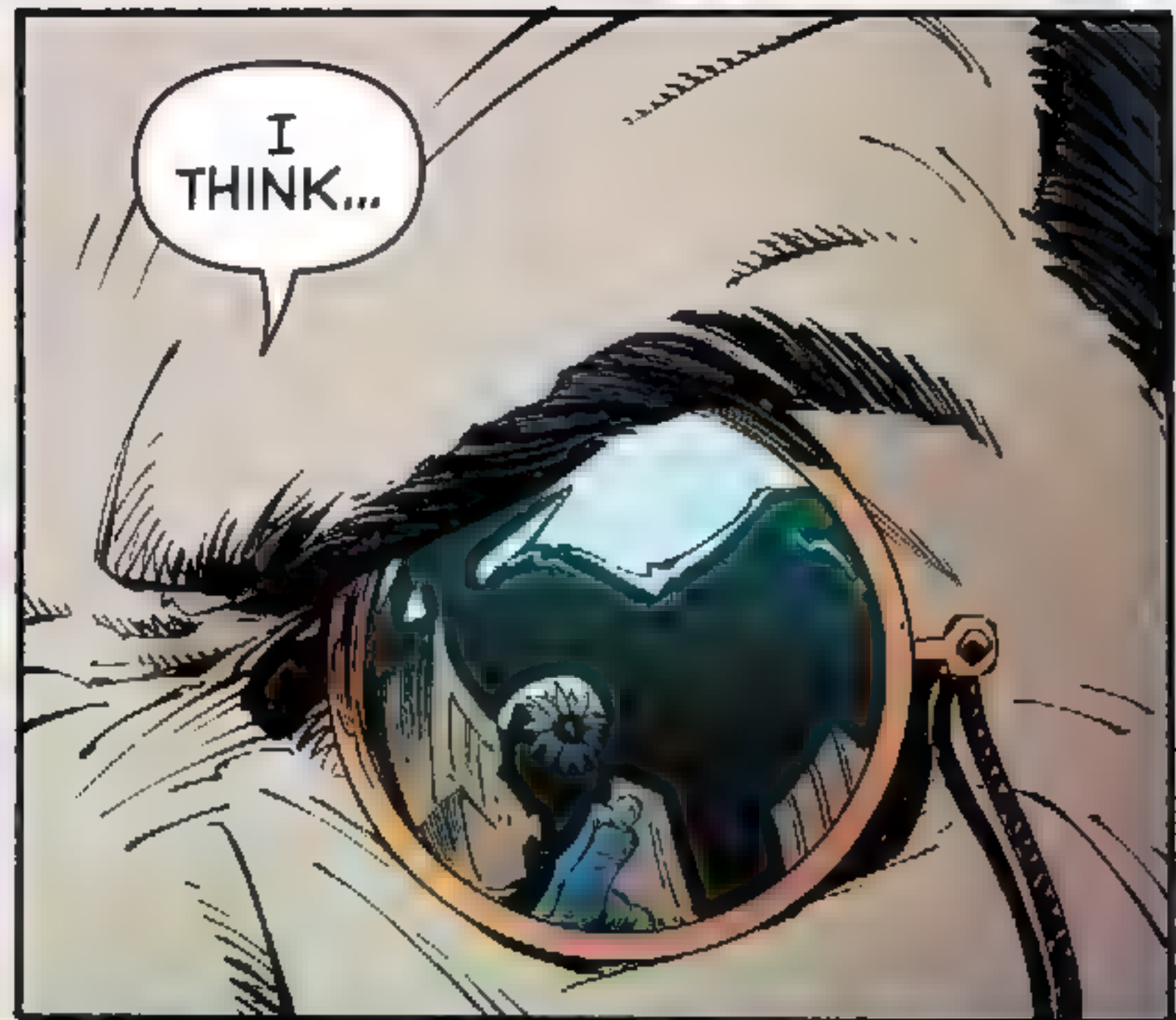


THIS ONE.  
THIS ONE IS  
YOURS.



IF YOU  
SEWED IT IN,  
IT'D COME  
TO LIFE.

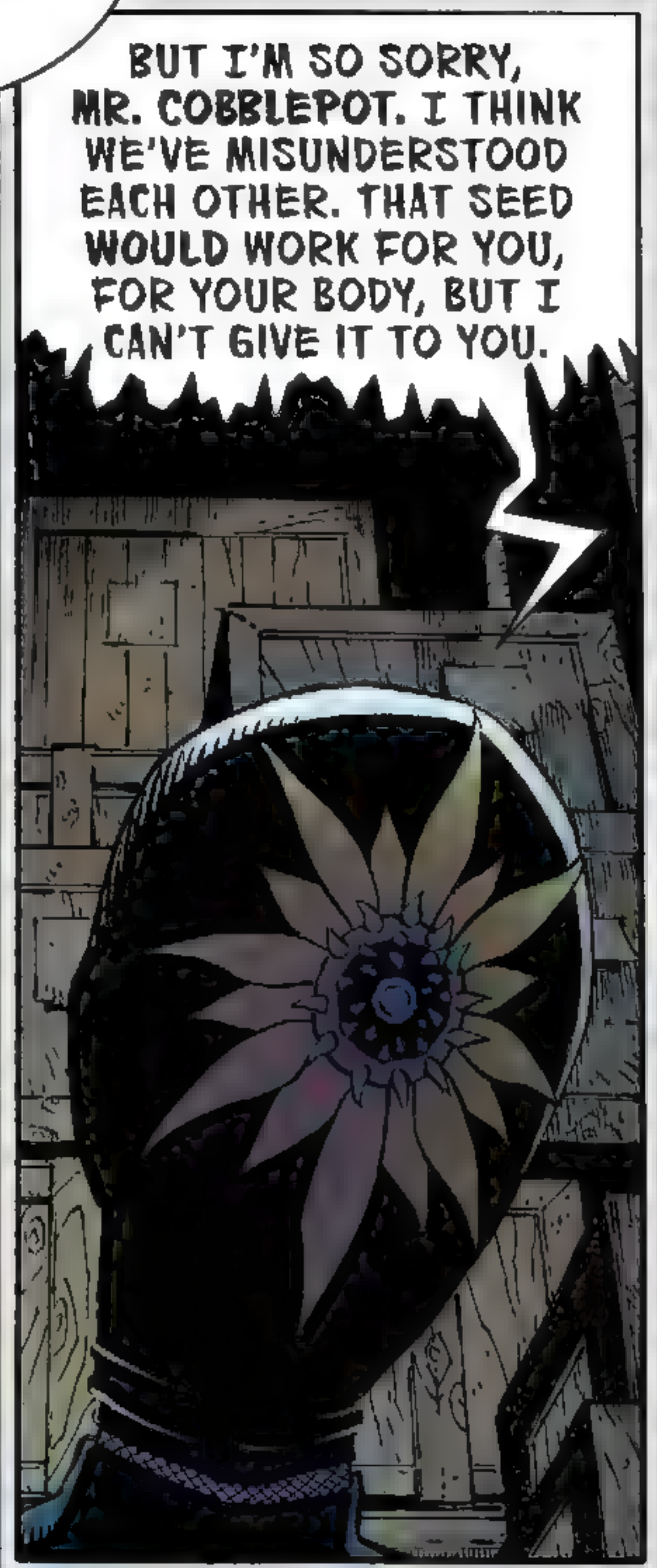
WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?



I  
THINK...



I NEVER NEEDED  
POWERS TO *WIELD*  
POWER HERE IN GOTHAM,  
"MR. BLOOM," AND I'M NOT  
SURE I NEED THEM NOW.  
BUT...PEOPLE SEEM TO BE  
BUYING WHAT YOU'RE  
SELLING. SO I'M  
INTERESTED.



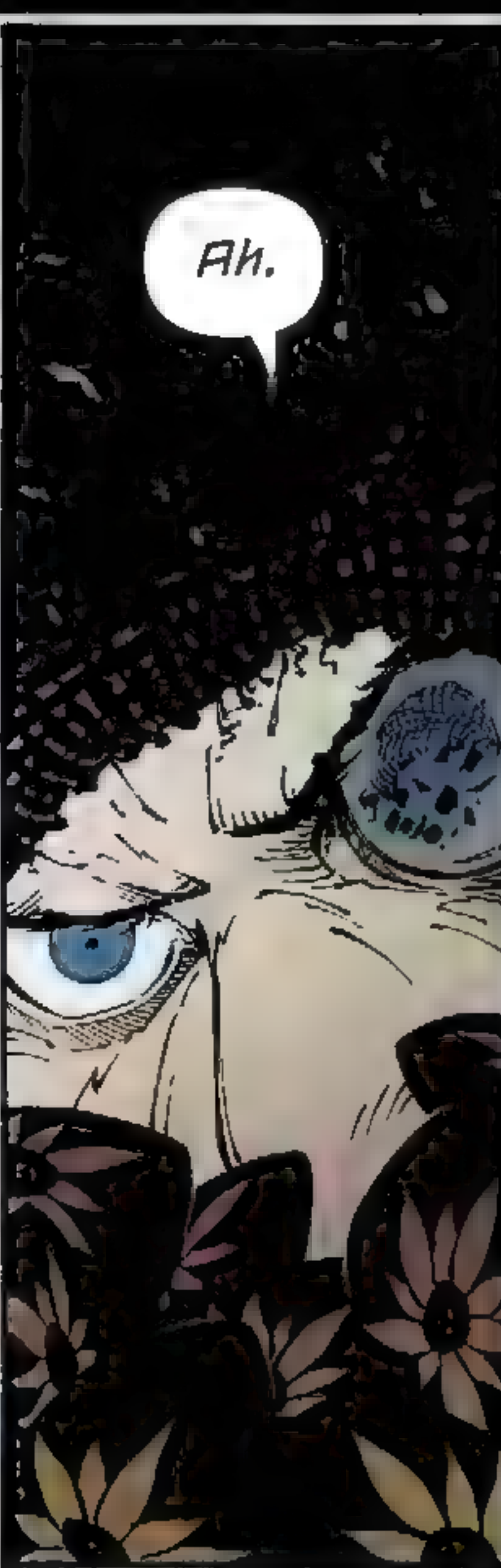
BUT I'M SO SORRY,  
MR. COBBLEPOT. I THINK  
WE'VE MISUNDERSTOOD  
EACH OTHER. THAT SEED  
WOULD WORK FOR YOU,  
FOR YOUR BODY, BUT I  
CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU.



Heh. IS THAT  
SO? AND WHY  
NOT? YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
ENOUGH?



NO,  
I DO. I HAVE TOO  
MANY. IT'S  
JUST...YOU'RE  
NOT PART OF  
THIS.

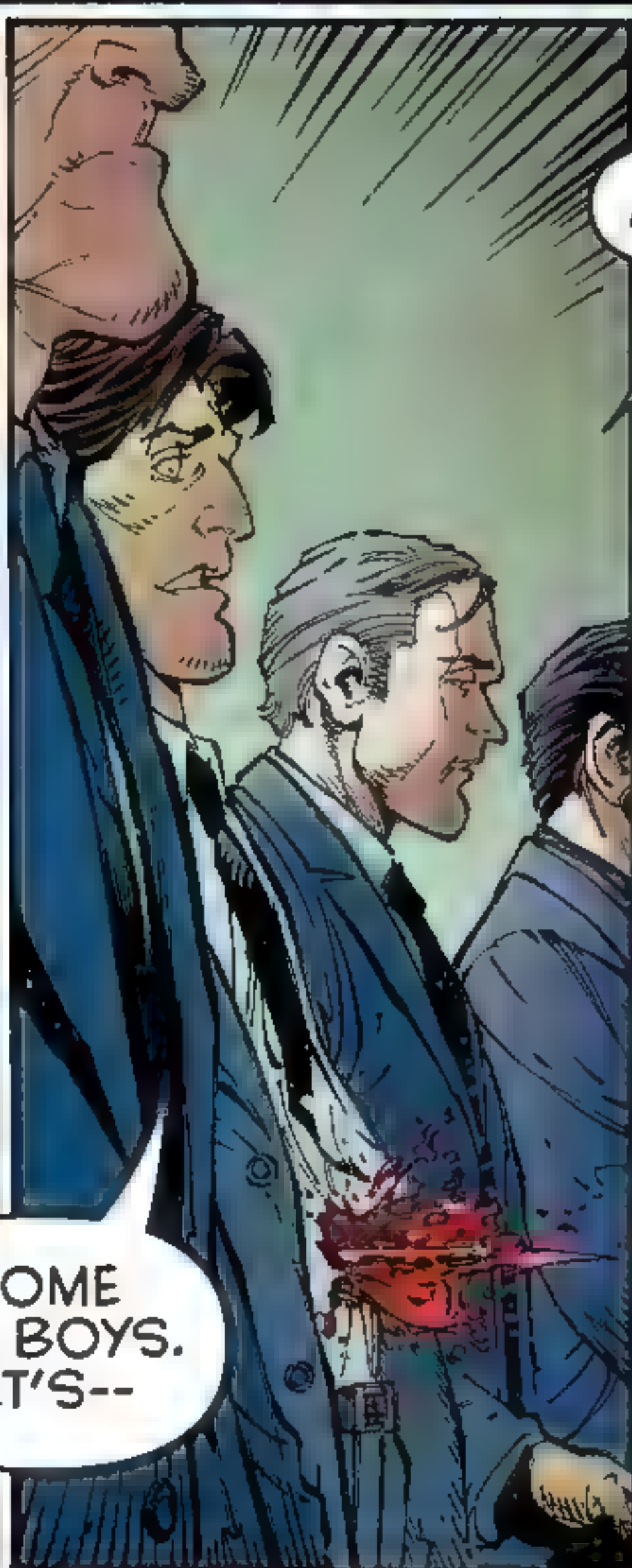
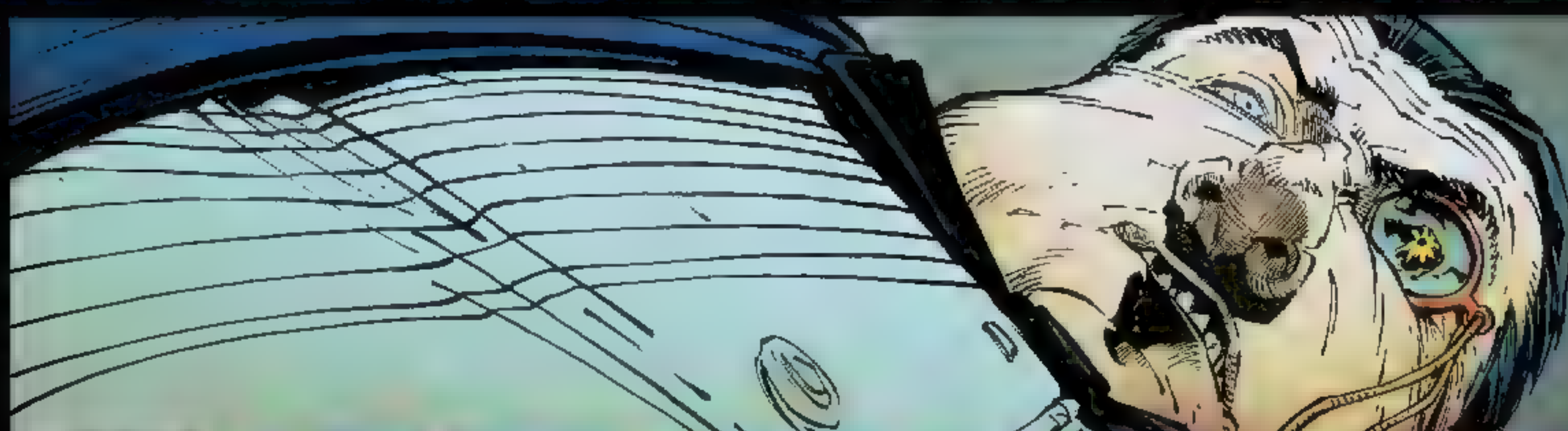
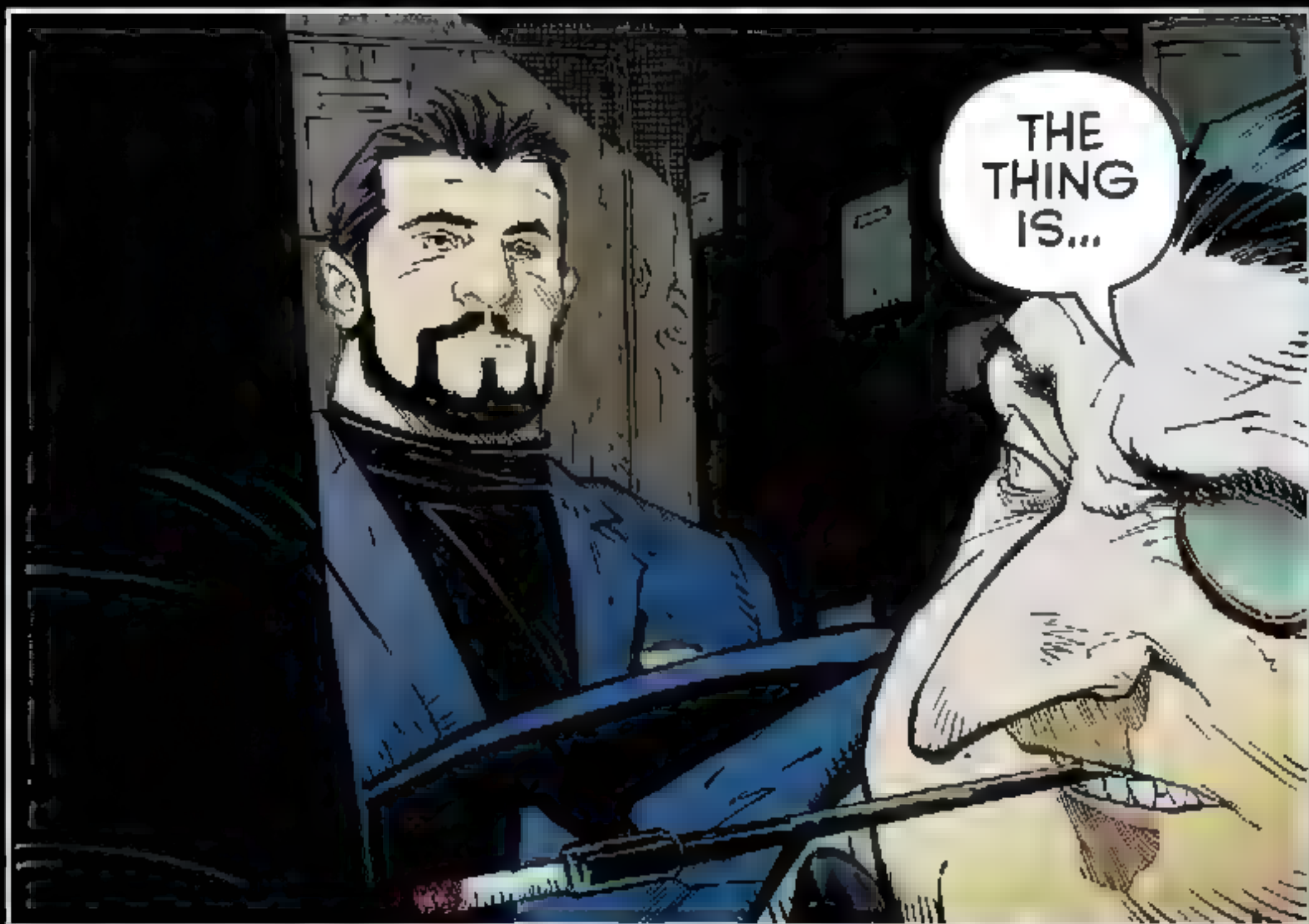


Ah.



WELL, I DO FIND  
THIS ALL VERY CUTE, MR.  
BLOOM. I'VE BEEN HEARING  
ABOUT YOU FOR A BIT. THE  
MAN WHO GIVES AWAY POWERS.  
A WEAPONS DEALER WHO  
MAKES NO DEALS. GROWING  
SOMETHING. A *GARDEN*.  
A BUSINESS.









...AND WE  
GROW VERY,  
VERY FAST!









Jack



GOTHAM MARSHES. POST-ZERO YEAR.







LISTENING TO THE VOICES  
OF THE DEAD  
THROUGH THE DARK



THE DARK  
ISN'T JUST  
A PLACE FOR ME

THE DARK ISN'T JUST  
A PLACE FOR ME  
IT'S A PART OF ME



I'M STILL  
HOLDING ON  
TO THIS  
HOPE...



...THAT YOU  
CALLED ME  
OUT HERE TO  
SHOW OFF THE  
BAT-SWAMP-  
BOAT.

WHAT  
DO WE  
HAVE?



PETER DUGGIO.  
FIFTEEN YEARS  
OLD. FROM THE  
NARROWS.

THE  
CORNER, MORE  
ACCURATELY. SHOT  
FOUR TIMES AND  
DUMPED HERE.

WHAT'S THE  
I.D.? HE HAVE  
A WALLET?



I CAN SEE HIS I.D.

"YOU'RE UPGRADING."

"YOU SAID HE'S FROM THE CORNER. THE *FOUR FIVES* HAVE BEEN AGGRESSIVE THERE LATELY. FEUDING WITH THE BIRD. COULD BE THEM."

I'D AGREE, IF THE *SHOTS* HAD KILLED HIM.

BUT I SCANNED HIM. HE DIED FROM A *FALL*. DROPPED HERE. FROM ABOUT A THOUSAND FEET UP.

...

KANE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, AND ALL POLICE BLIMPS WERE DECOMMISSIONED WEEKS AGO. IT'S RAINCLOUDS AND GEESE.

NO ONE FLIES OVER THIS AREA.

SOMEONE DID.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL TRACK THE SHOTS. YOU HAVE LEADS?  
BATMAN?

IN THE past few months, there has been a lot of talk about the "Four Fives" being the most aggressive group in the city. They've been aggressive lately, and in some cases, it's been reported that they've killed. And now there's "Rainclouds and Geese."

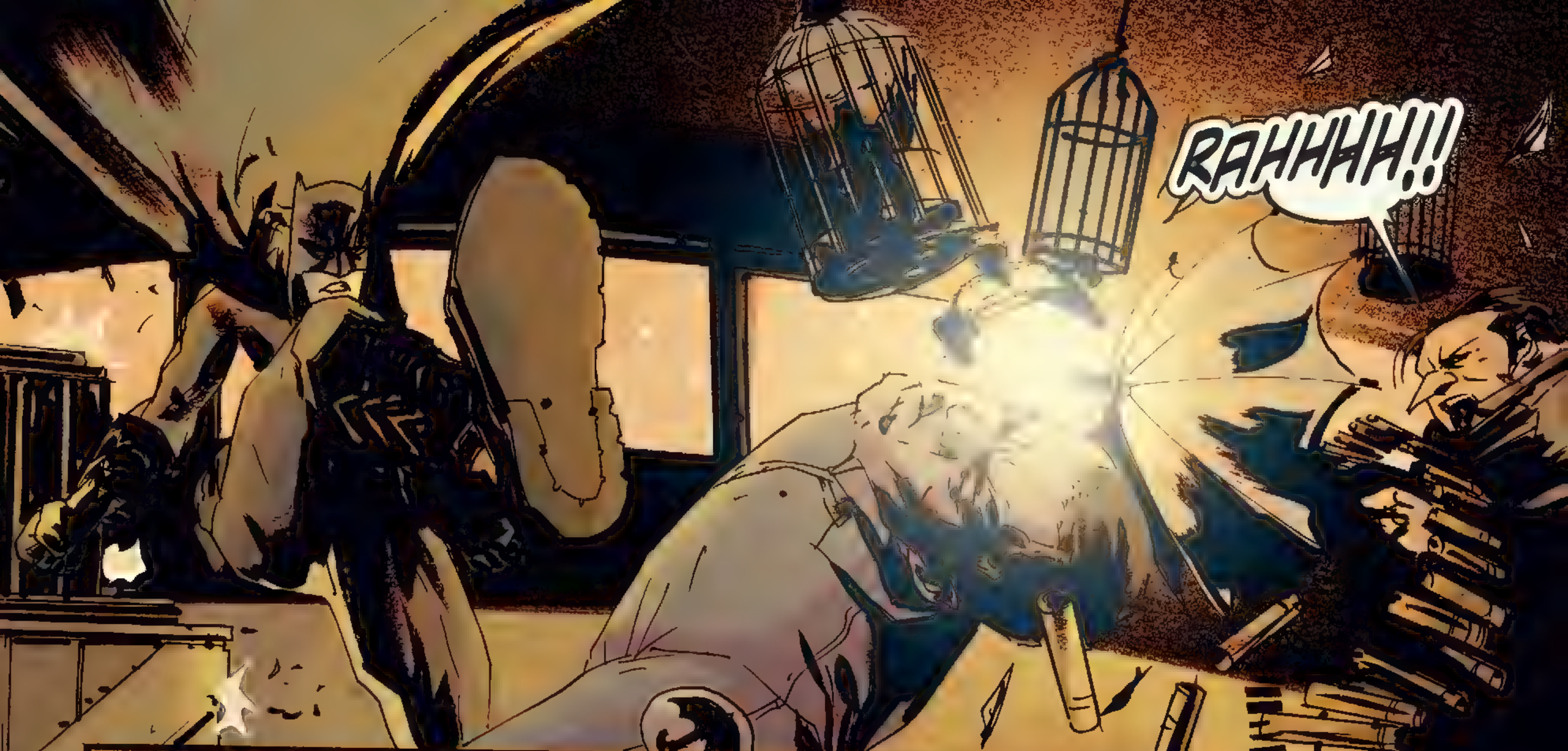
Each year, a vigilante with the codename "The Bird" flies over the city, and with each fly, there is a message. The message is usually a warning, but this time, it's a threat. The message says, "I'll be back. And I'll be back with a vengeance."

~~MR. FREEZE~~  
~~KILLER CLOW~~  
~~CLAYFACE~~

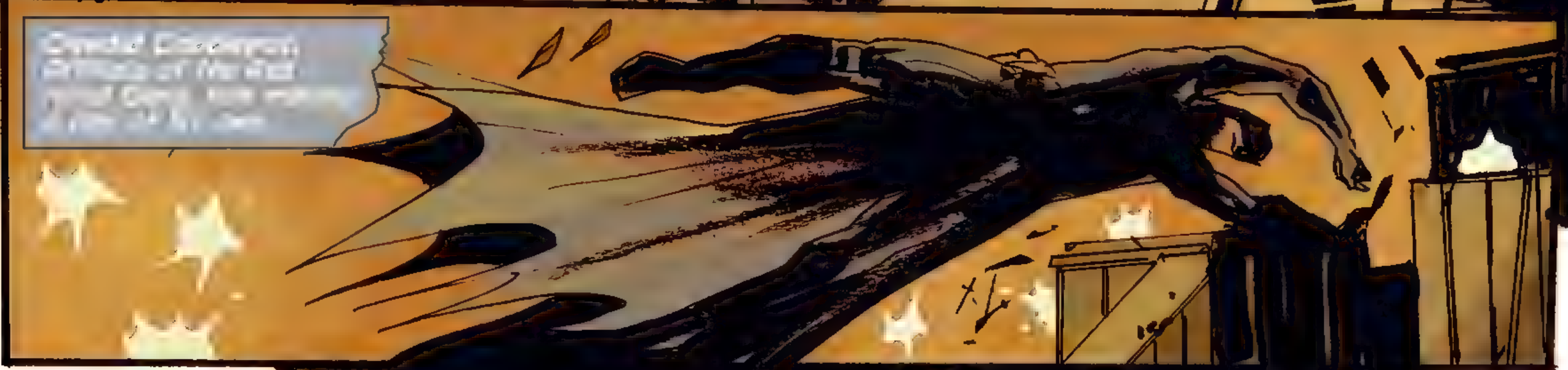
PENGUIN

Now, if you're looking for a vigilante, you'll find one. The one with a connection to the Gotham City Police.





RAHHHH!!



Speedy Discovered  
Prisoners of the Bird  
and Gave them money  
2 per 100,000



It's the only way  
to get the money  
by means of a bomb



In the aftermath of  
the 2nd War, which  
with the city in ruins,  
Discovered the money  
to build an empire  
of the city



Working with the  
money, but the 1st  
War, but the younger  
birds - that's right. And a  
no more question. Something  
will be made in future of it.



Speedy Discovered that  
only the money of the  
1st War, but the money  
of the 2nd War, and  
the money of the 3rd War









STOP IT! STOP IT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU LUNATIC?!



When the machine was first activated, it was supposed to be a way to control the city's population. But now it's just a way to control the city's fate.

They're going to use the machine to control the city's fate.

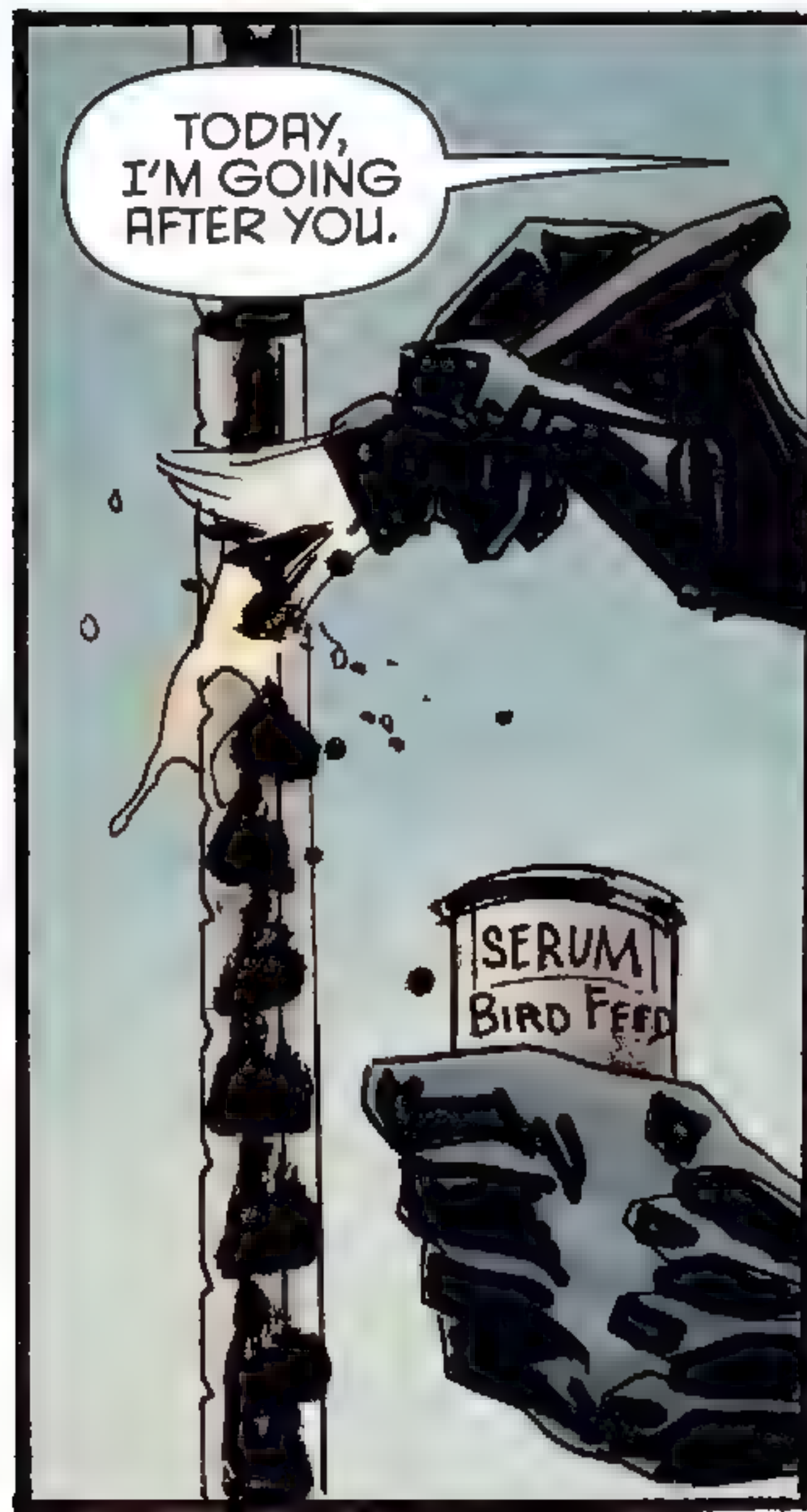


PETER WHO-GIO?!! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE AND GO AFTER GOTHAM'S REAL CRIMINALS?!!

It doesn't seem like the machine is working. But it's not clear if it's broken or if it's just not working yet.

But the Gazette has uncovered substantial links between well-known, legitimate lobbyists and Gotham's own underworld. During a year-long investigation, the Gazette found that at least three prominent advocacy groups regularly accepted donations from active criminal organizations looking to influence the city legislature. One source, speaking anonymously, explained, "Regulation is a line who profits from where a line sits. It moves according to who pays for it to move. The real criminals are the men and women who paint the line."

But the machine is not working.



TODAY, I'M GOING AFTER YOU.



When the machine was first activated, it was supposed to be a way to control the city's population. But now it's just a way to control the city's fate.

But the machine is not working.



And the way  
down the  
river with you.

NOT A CHANCE.  
WE'RE GOING TO  
NEED AT LEAST A MILE  
MORE. LOOPED, WITH  
*TRIPLE* THE SURFACE  
AREA.

WE'RE TALKING  
ABOUT FREEZING A  
GOOD QUARTER MILE OF  
THE GOTHAM RIVER, AND  
THAT'S JUST THE DAMN  
GROUND FLOOR.

MR.  
COBBLEPOT?

PETER.

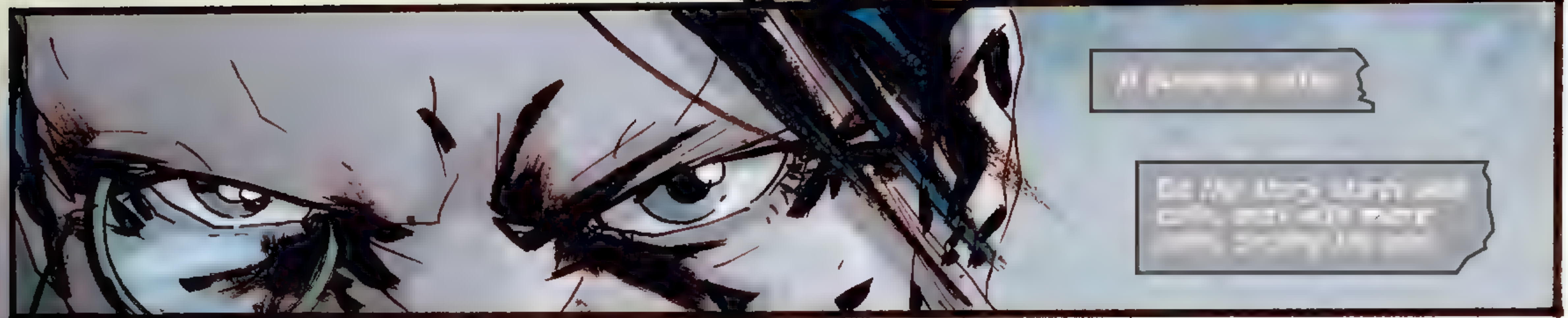
PETER DUGGIO.

I WANT TO DO BUSINESS.





YOU CAN SELL THINGS THROUGH THE PLACE. I KNOW HOW TO RUN IT. I'VE BEEN RUNNING IT FOR **YEARS**. IT COULD WORK OUT FOR ALL OF US.



IT'S A GOOD IDEA.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT? DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT?



SO YOU **TOOK** THE PLACE. YOU TOOK IT TO SPITE THE ONE GANG THAT **WON'T** WORK WITH YOU, AND YOU **KILLED** THE BOY, SHOT HIM AND DROPPED THE BODY FROM ONE OF YOUR DAMN BLIMPS.

NO, YOU MANIAC.

KID WAS ALIVE AND KICKING LAST TIME I SAW HIM.

YOU... REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS CITY, DO YOU?

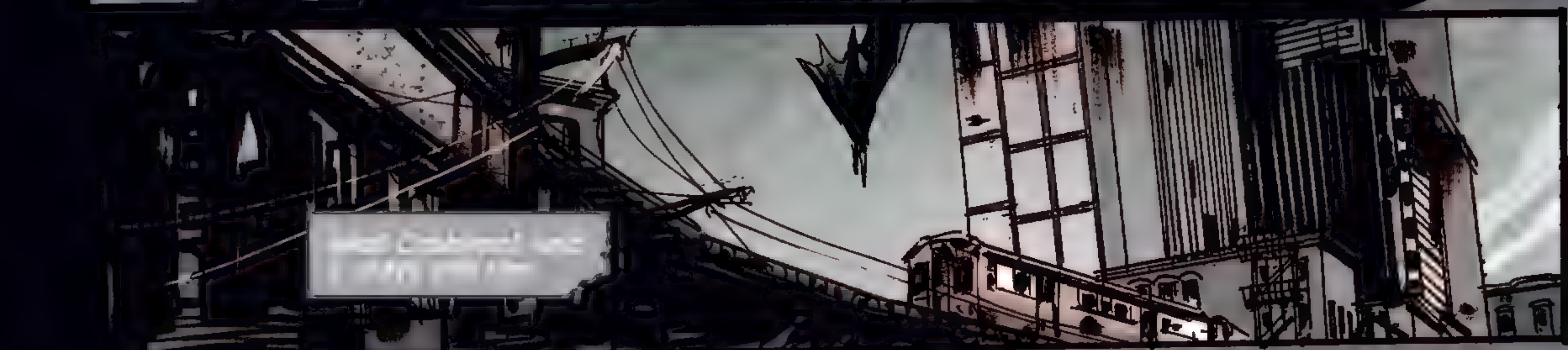






There was a large tent used for  
part of the day. Here, several structures  
were used for the Museum visitors and then  
moved to the ground. It was used for  
other things in the past.

Many more people were in the  
tents and the house. It was used for  
some things from Gotham City.  
They were in the tent and the tent.



There was a large tent used for  
part of the day. Here, several structures  
were used for the Museum visitors and then  
moved to the ground. It was used for  
other things in the past.

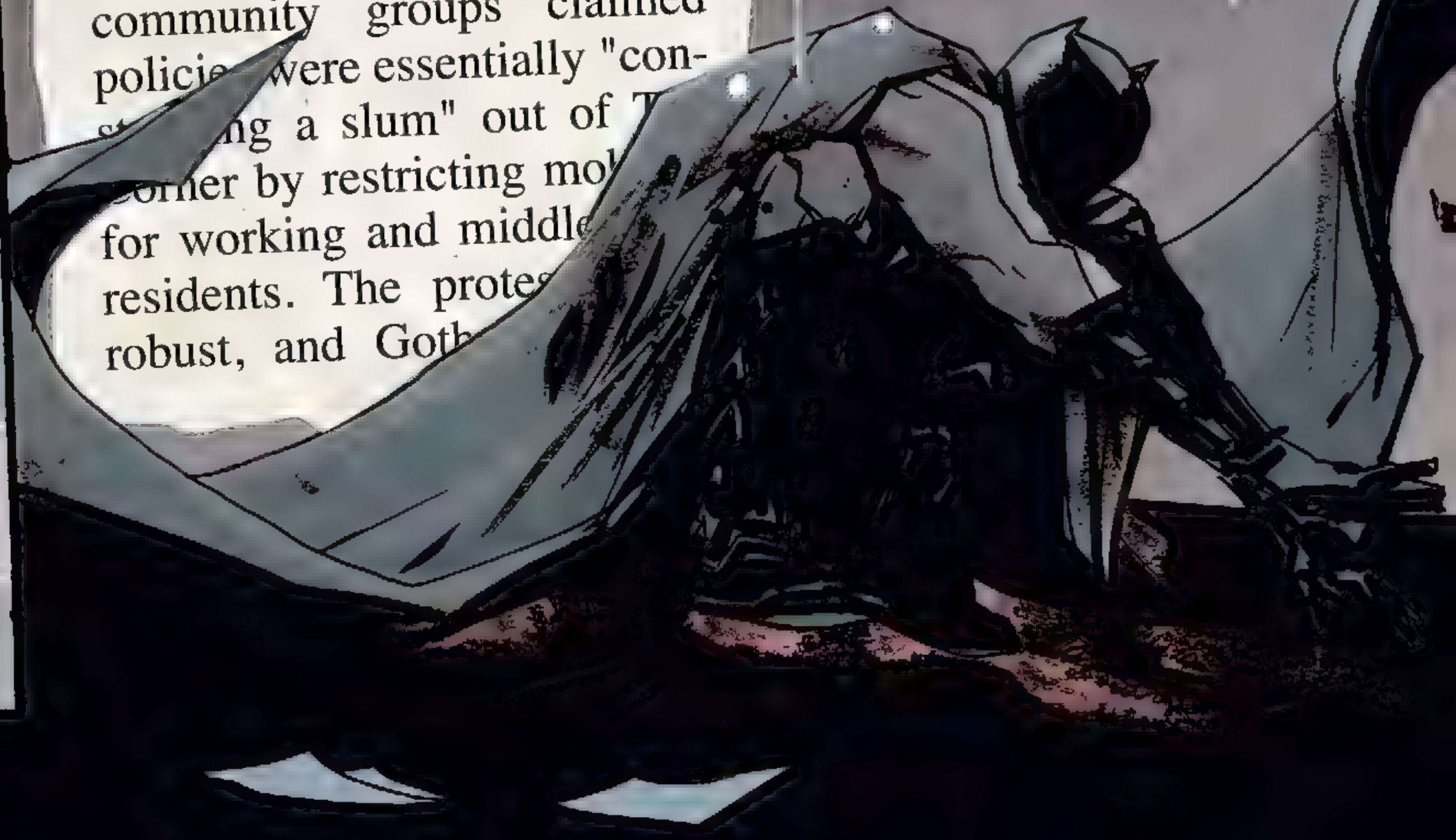


There was a large tent used for  
part of the day. Here, several structures  
were used for the Museum visitors and then  
moved to the ground. It was used for  
other things in the past.

reached a peak  
of 1963 during  
demonstrations  
protesting segregation policies  
by multiple Gotham  
cities similar to  
other subur-  
ban areas like Levittown, NY,  
which barred blacks from  
renting homes. Protestors and  
community groups claimed  
policies were essentially "con-  
verting a slum" out of T  
corner by restricting mo  
for working and middle  
residents. The protes  
robust, and Goth

employed fire hoses, dogs  
and what was called "mea-  
sured violence" to end the  
demonstrations.

There was a large tent used for  
part of the day. Here, several structures  
were used for the Museum visitors and then  
moved to the ground. It was used for  
other things in the past.





The Center never  
 turned the right side  
 of the street.

Out  
 They  
 want  
 the  
 about

The Center never  
 turned the right way  
 that day, Germany!

Out in the street,  
 they were all about  
 the same old story  
 about the same old story  
 about the same old story

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO  
FEELS LIKE THIS?



Get the way, Peter, and let the Penguin do his job. He's the one who's got the power here.

I'm the Penguin, you know. And I'm the one who's got the power here.

Letting you see me making a mistake is a target on his back.

Get the way, Peter, and  
to the Penguin for now,  
to keep the streets  
from the fire.

I may be a little bit  
and I'm a little bit  
and I'm a little bit  
and I'm a little bit.

Letting the way  
and I'm a little bit  
and I'm a little bit  
and I'm a little bit.

Get the way, Peter, and  
to the Penguin for now,  
to keep the streets  
from the fire.

I may be a little bit  
and I'm a little bit  
and I'm a little bit  
and I'm a little bit.

Letting the fire  
and I'm a little bit  
and I'm a little bit  
and I'm a little bit.









ENOUGH.



TANO CANACCO. HEAD OF THE FOUR FIVES.

WHO YOU  
THINK YOU  
ARE?

I'M--

CLIC

--A LONG  
WAY FROM  
HOME.

WHY?

CLIC

PETER  
DUGGIO.

THIS  
IS HIS  
PLACE.

**WAS.**  
PETER OFFERED  
IT TO COBBLEPOT.  
COBBLEPOT OFFERED IT  
TO YOU. YOU TORCHED  
IT. AND DROPPED PETER  
FROM A HELICOPTER  
ALONG PENGUIN'S  
MIGRATION ROUTE  
TO PROVE A  
POINT.





DAMN. I'M  
SMOOTH.

SO YOU  
CONFESS.



WHY THE *HELL*  
YOU THINK I GOT  
*ACCESS* TO A  
HELICOPTER?!!



"I MEAN  
SERIOUSLY..."

"YEAH, THIS JOINT  
WAS A GIFT. SO WHAT,  
AN' WHO THE HELL  
CARES? *YOU?* BULL.



"THIS IS  
NOWHERE TO  
NOBODY."



TANO,  
THE LITTLE  
BROTHA WOULD  
LIKE SOME  
WORDS...





"NEVER SAW THE  
LITTLE BROTHA LIKE  
THAT, ALL AMPED'N..."

"RAGE."



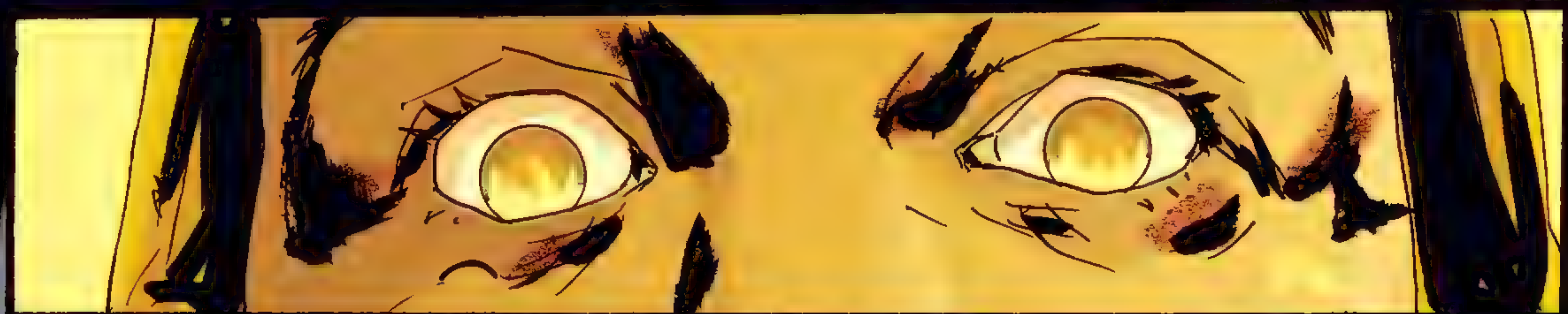
"WOULD HAVE,  
MIGHT A OFFERED  
HIM A SPOT IN  
THE CREW..."



"KID WAS  
ON FIRE."



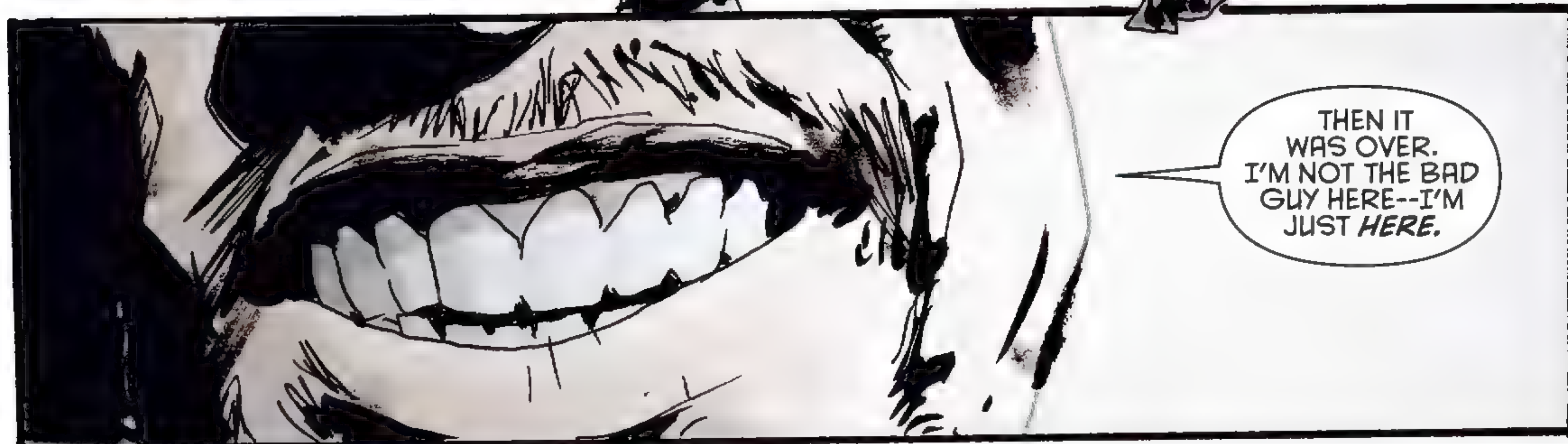




THEN?

ALWAYS  
THEN,  
RIGHT?





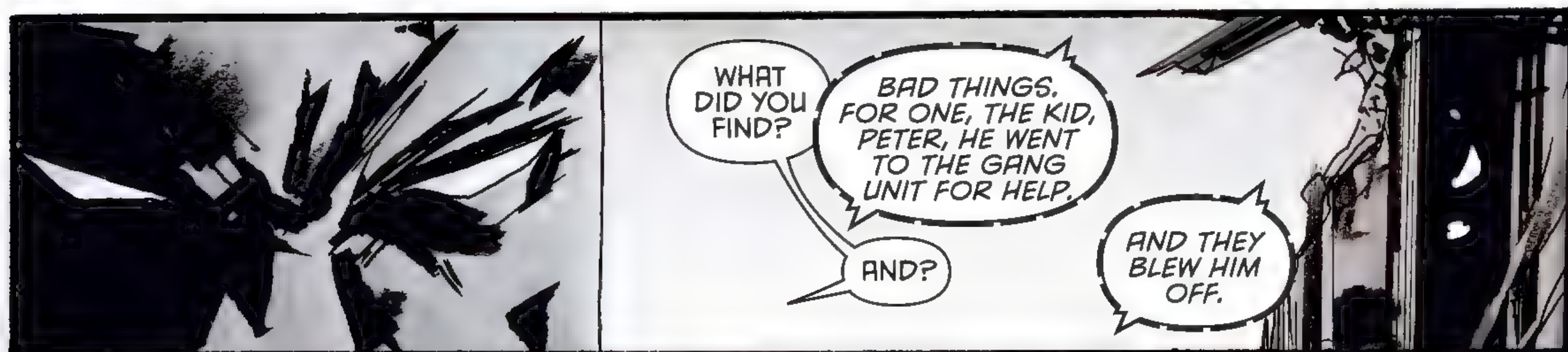
THEN IT  
WAS OVER.  
I'M NOT THE BAD  
GUY HERE--I'M  
JUST *HERE*.

Let's go back to the beginning  
of the story.

...Still, the Four Fives, originally the Green Line Fours, 1971 in Gotham's Corner district ...named for 4th street and 5th avenue, the intersection ...people today would be surprised to know the Four Fives originated as a neighborhood radicalized watch group. With the Corner less ...also provided ... wasn't until the 1980's and the infusion of cheap, hard drugs that the group became known as a "gang." In

Comic book world, the Four Fives  
are a very real threat.

Some of it matters in this  
world. And if it  
doesn't, let them  
be the ones to  
decide.



WHAT  
DID YOU  
FIND?

BAD THINGS.  
FOR ONE, THE KID,  
PETER, HE WENT  
TO THE GANG  
UNIT FOR HELP.

AND?

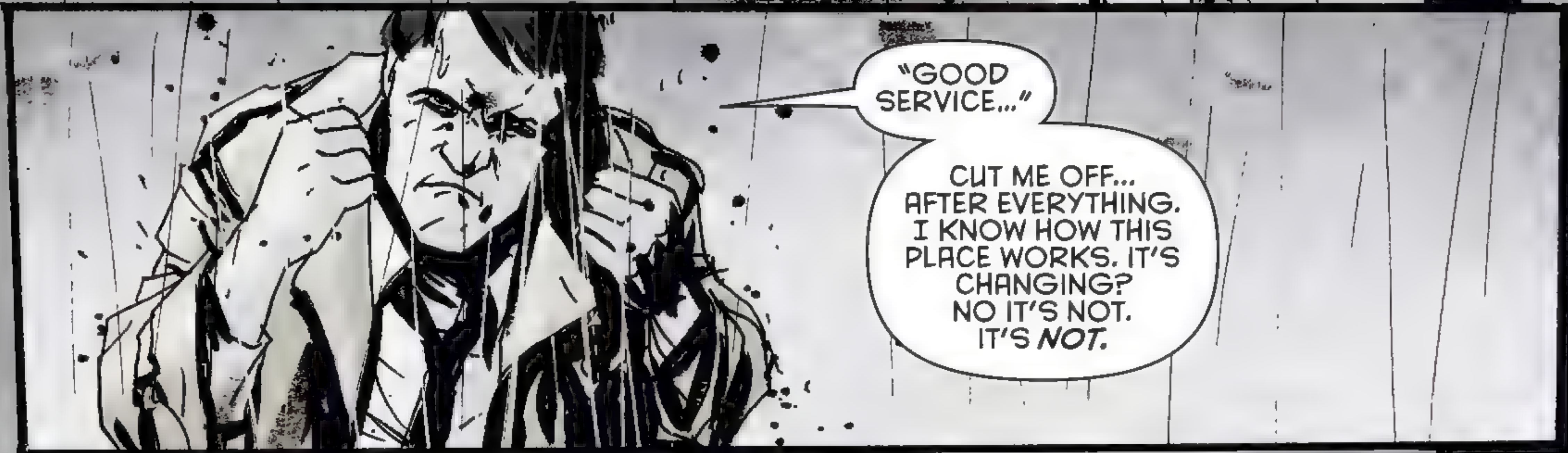
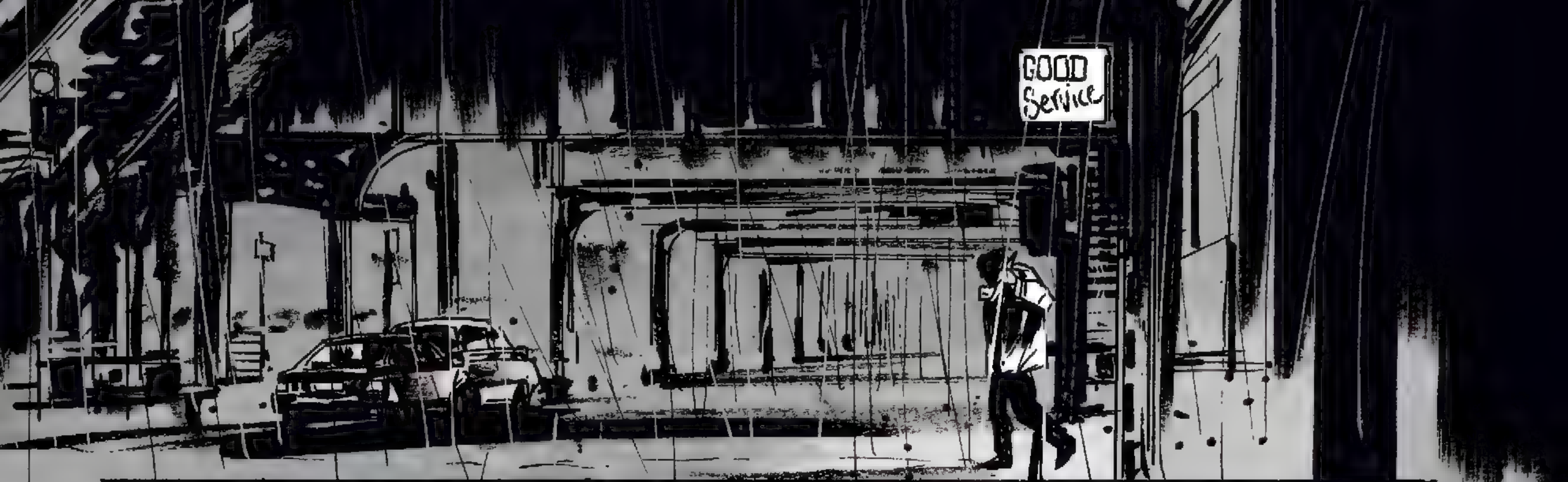
AND THEY  
BLEW HIM  
OFF.

AND?

AND I GOT  
A NAME ON  
THE BULLETS.  
NOTHING  
GOOD.







Continued

the NAACP reported that out of 45 officer-involved shootings in the city in the last two years, 37 of those shots were black. None were charged. One-third of the shots resulted in fatalities. And weapons were *not* found in 40 percent of cases, the NAACP found, no weapons were charged, and no weapons were found in the other 40 percent of cases.





*Too much for today especially, because here, now, Batman is just out to get the story, to catch the one who put Peter down.*



David Armstrong  
January 2001

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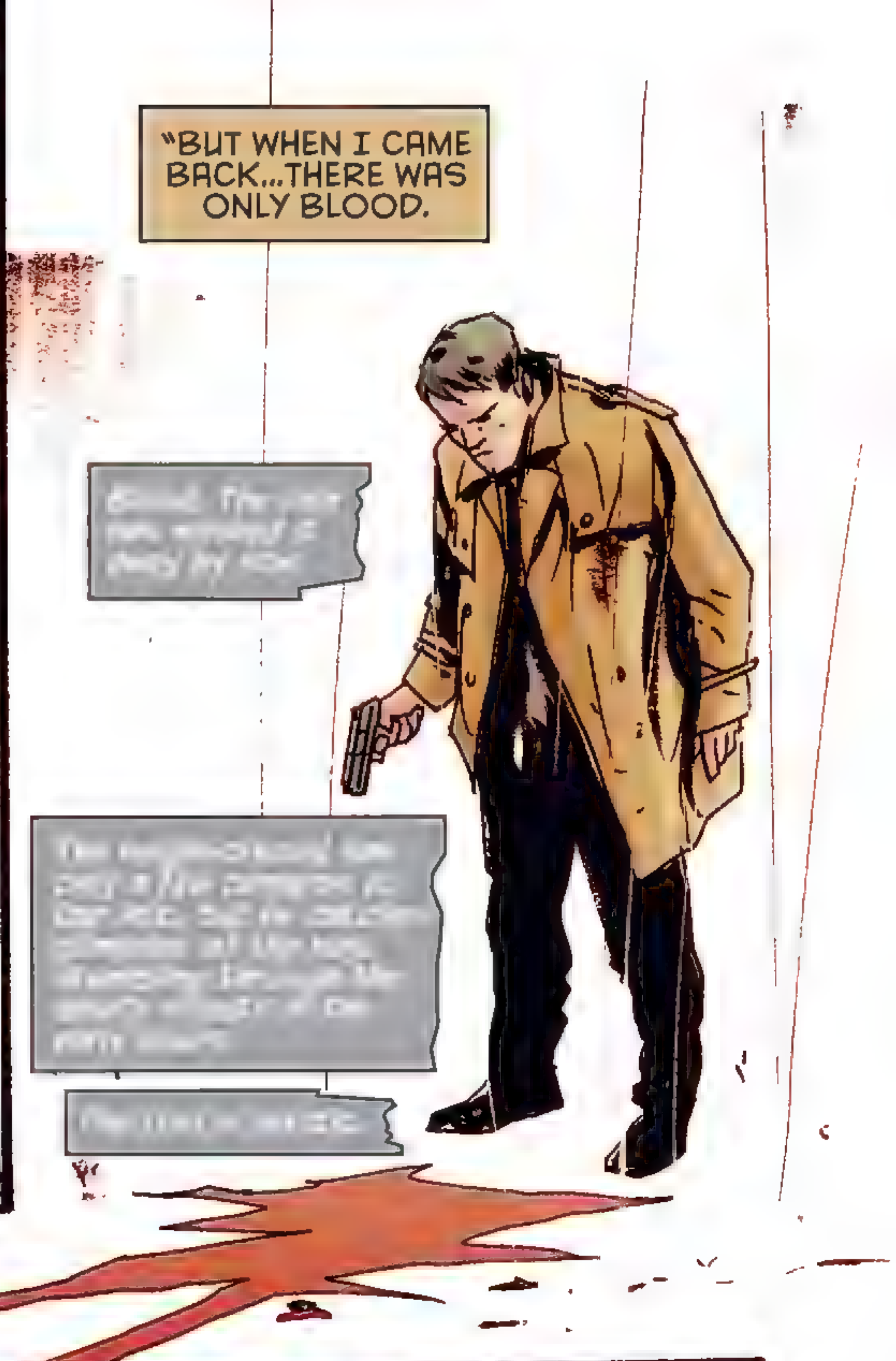




ENOUGH.  
THE BOY.  
WHAT DID  
YOU DO  
WITH HIM?



WHAT?  
NOTHING...I...  
I THOUGHT I  
KILLED HIM.



"BUT WHEN I CAME  
BACK...THERE WAS  
ONLY BLOOD.

David Thomas  
was killed by  
himself.

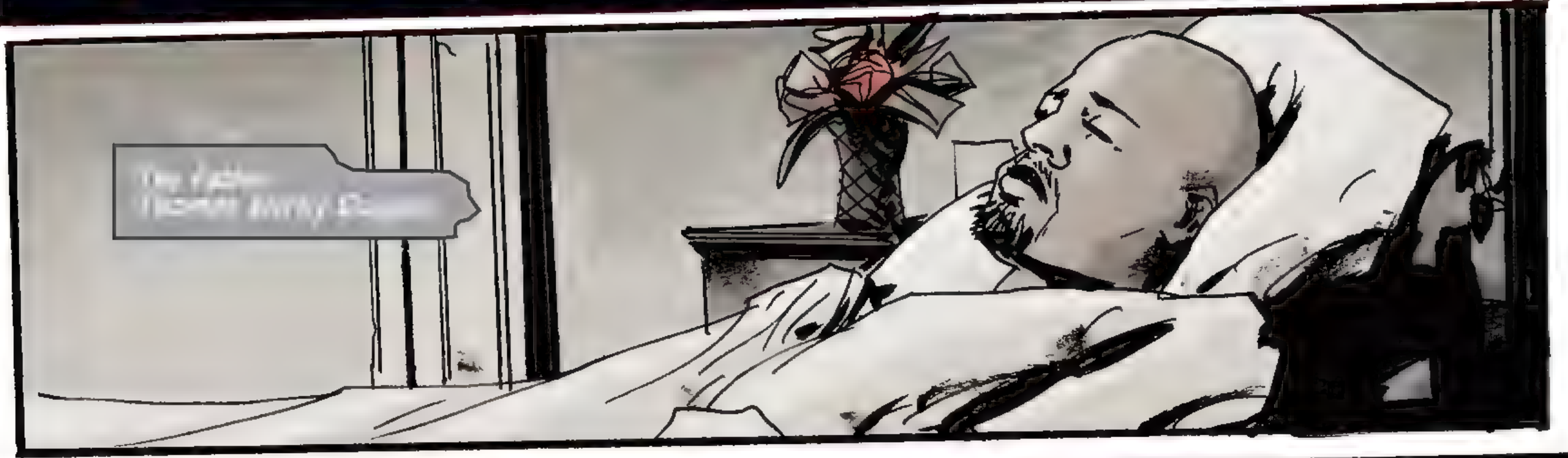
The boy had been  
only a few minutes  
away from the  
door. He was  
standing in the  
middle of the  
room.

The boy was  
killed.



The old pattern of  
the boy's heart  
was still there.

...a small spot  
of blood.



The father  
Thomas was  
killed.



Are you  
sure?









"...I TOLD HIM TO GO TO *BRUCE WAYNE*."



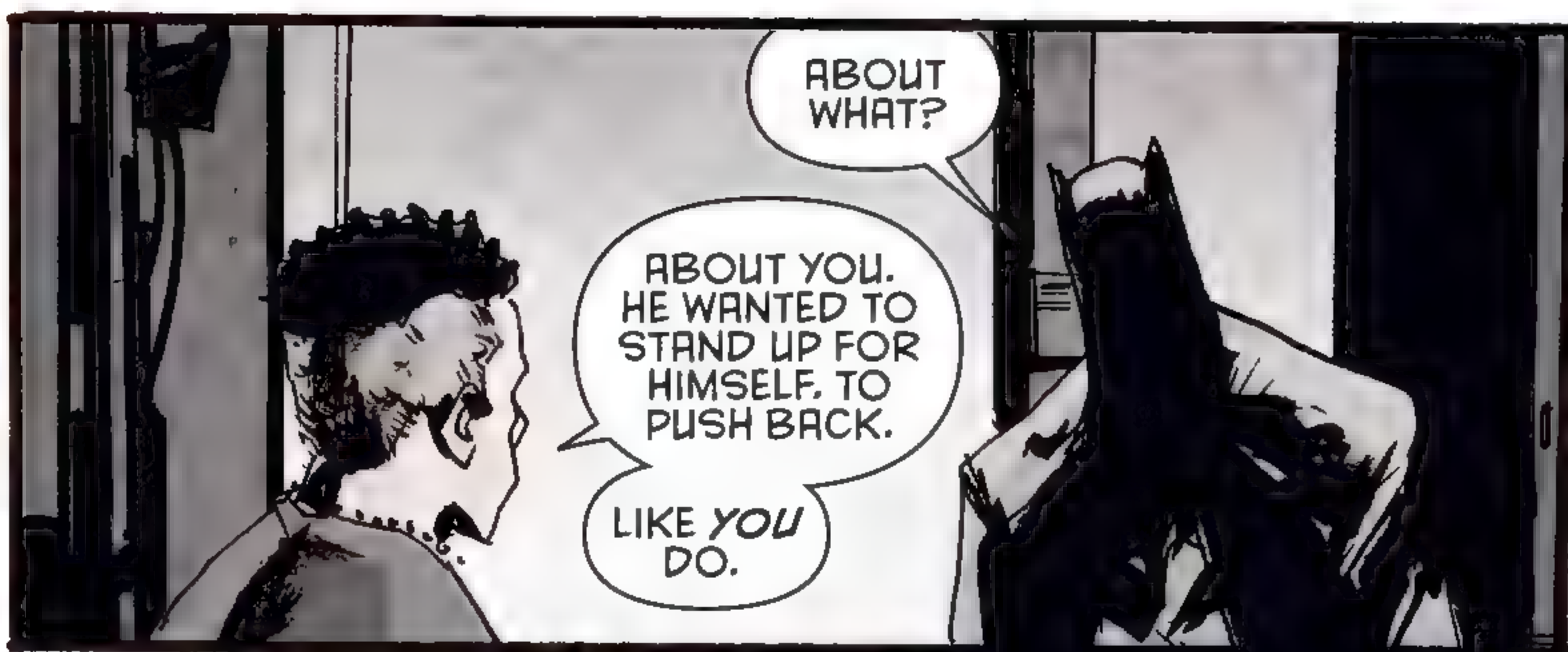
MR.  
WAYNE!  
BRUCE  
WAYNE!  
HEY!

"PETER'S STORE WAS ONLY WORTH SOMETHING ONCE BRUCE WAYNE ANNOUNCED HE WAS GONNA DEVELOP THE NEIGHBORHOOD. I SAID TO PETER, I SAID, 'YOU SHOULD TRY TALKING TO THE MAN.' ASKING HIM TO HELP, OR NOT TO BUILD. I DON'T KNOW..."

While some think an infusion of capital is needed, others question whether private developments -- even ones like Wayne Apartments, designed to provide upscale living conditions for lower-middle class families in the Corner -- might drive up property values and force out longtime residents. The

"BUT IT DIDN'T WORK."

"AND THAT WAS IT. NO MORE OPTIONS. THAT'S WHEN HE STARTED TALKING ABOUT *IT*."



ABOUT  
WHAT?

ABOUT YOU.  
HE WANTED TO  
STAND UP FOR  
HIMSELF. TO  
PUSH BACK.

LIKE *YOU*  
DO.

...  
HOW?





THERE'S  
A PLACE,  
BATMAN...



There's a place, Batman... I want  
to see it. I want to see the place  
where you were born. I want to see  
the place where you grew up.

JUST  
VIEW



There's a place, Batman... I want  
to see it. I want to see the place  
where you were born. I want to see  
the place where you grew up.

IT'S A SECRET  
PLACE

IT'S A SECRET  
PLACE

IT'S A SECRET  
PLACE









The great power that  
has been and is to be  
the great power that

In the great power that  
has been and is to be  
the great power that

In the great power that  
has been and is to be  
the great power that

In the great power that  
has been and is to be  
the great power that

In the great power that  
has been and is to be  
the great power that







On a recent night, the city's police department was alerted to a disturbance in the city's downtown area.

In the heart of the city, the police found a large, dark, bat-like structure on top of a building.

erty values and force out longtime residents. The debate has fierce proponents on both sides, but in the end, the Corner

WITH AUTHORITY" continued

NAACP reported that  
been involved  
city in the last  
of those shot  
were white.  
shootings  
es. Although  
found in 40

percent of cases, the  
NAACP found, no  
officers were charged,  
not one

Corner by restricting out of The  
constructing a slum" essentially  
and community groups claiming  
from N.Y. City's police  
and renting homes, a  
policies  
Corner by restricting out of The  
constructing a slum" essentially  
and community groups claiming  
from N.Y. City's police  
and renting homes, a

criminal  
move. The real criminal  
nals are the men and  
women who paint the  
line  
speaking  
y, explained  
move. The real criminal  
nals are the men and  
women who paint the  
line  
who pays for it to  
move. The real criminal  
nals are the men and  
women who paint the  
line  
according to  
move. The real criminal  
nals are the men and  
women who paint the  
line



We should be the ones  
who are being rescued  
by the Justice League.



To survive, we must  
stay together.



Let's all  
stand up  
to this.



Let's all  
stand up  
to this.



But we must  
stand up to the  
justice league.  
We must stay  
together to win.  
To the end.



The Justice League  
is the only way  
to save the world.



The last time

the factory  
was closed

because of the strong

and heavy rain

because they  
were not  
ready

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the











Capullo fco  
15  
Gallucci







"IN THE  
BEGINNING,  
THERE WAS  
NOTHING.

"AND THEN...

"...THERE WAS  
BATMAN.

"AND THIS WAS  
GOOD."

This is very,  
very bad.

So, Batman, you got  
yourself trapped in  
an industrial  
furnace.

Gun is cooked.

Temperature is  
eight hundred  
degrees and--

No, make that *nine*  
hundred degrees  
and rising.

In about thirty seconds, this hot-box will  
reach fourteen hundred degrees, cremation  
level, and your suit will give out and you  
will literally be burnt to dust.

Alright,  
Batman...

...time to do  
something  
amazing.





Huff huff.  
SEMPER FI.



Bearings. Hurry.

Walls are two-foot  
steel with lead backing.  
Hopeless.

The trap door  
hermetically sealed.  
Hopeless.

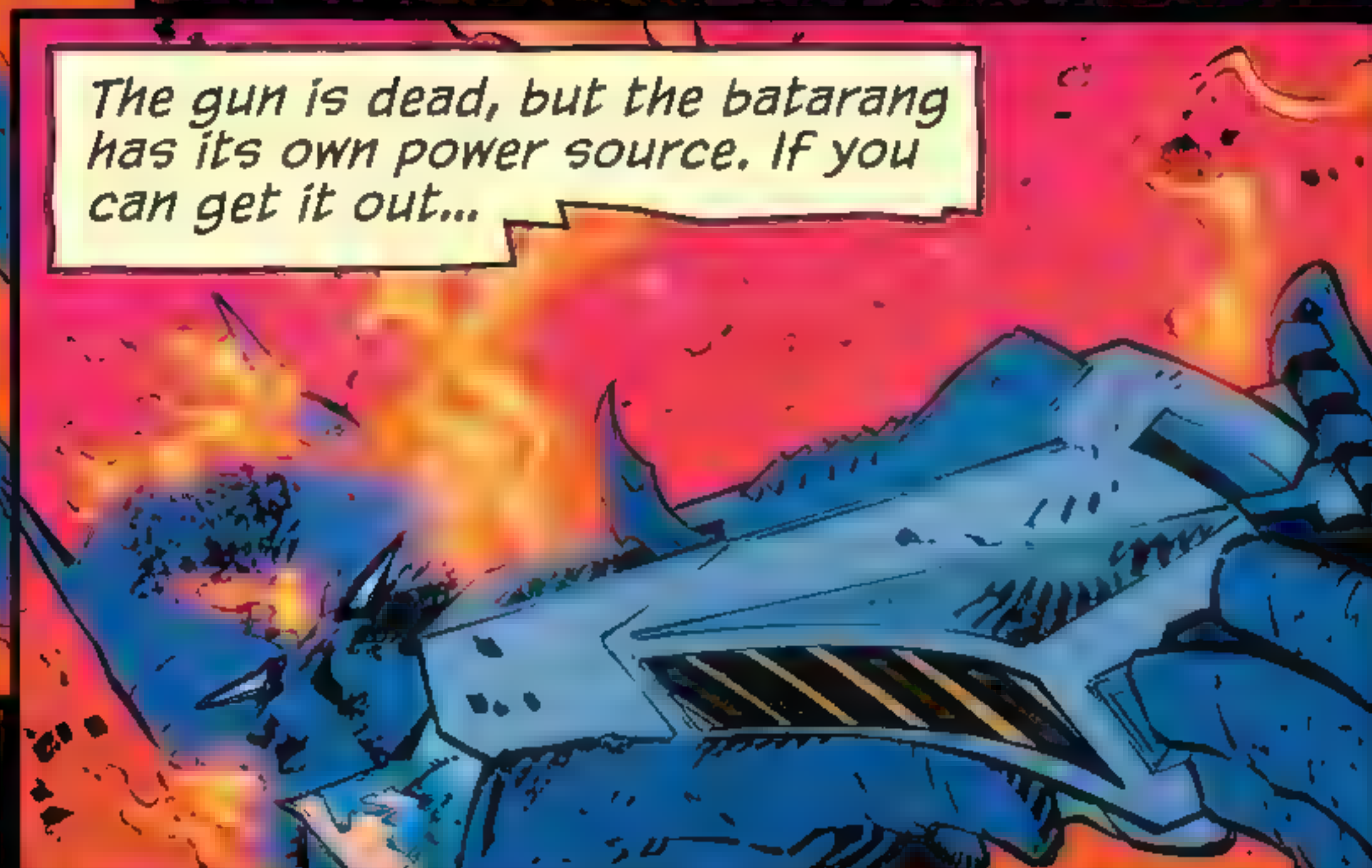


A thousand degrees  
now. Move.

The coolant coils  
are hopele--

Wait. They're  
exposed.

If you  
can short  
circuit  
them...



The gun is dead, but the batarang  
has its own power source. If you  
can get it out...

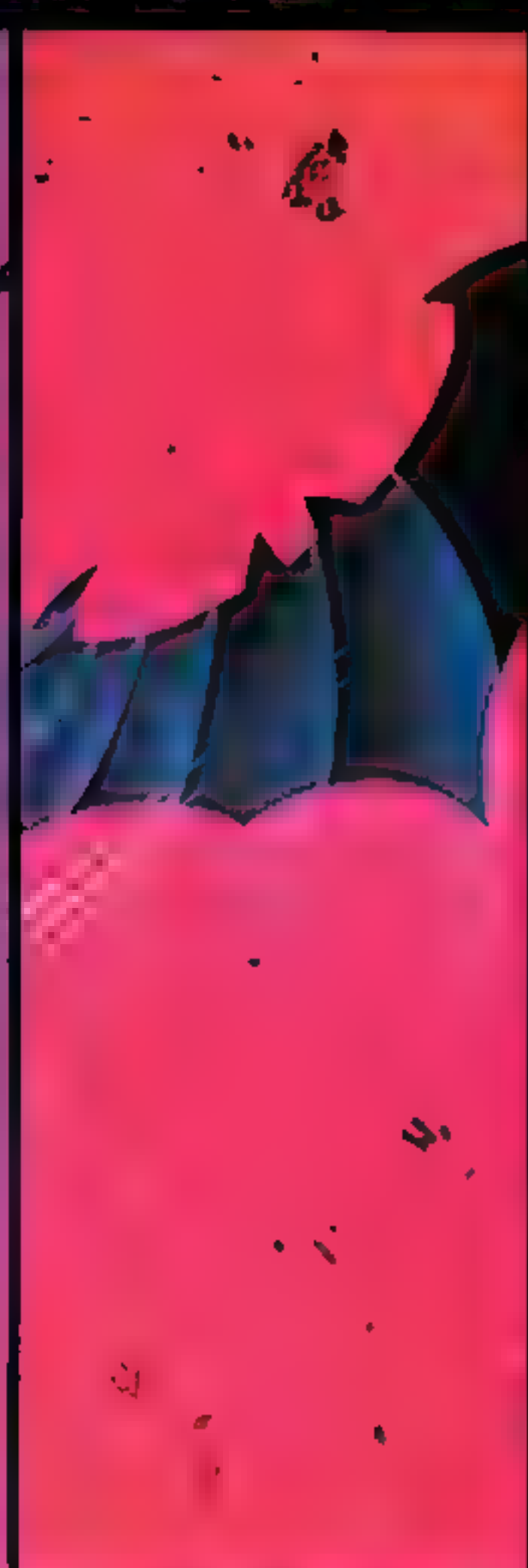
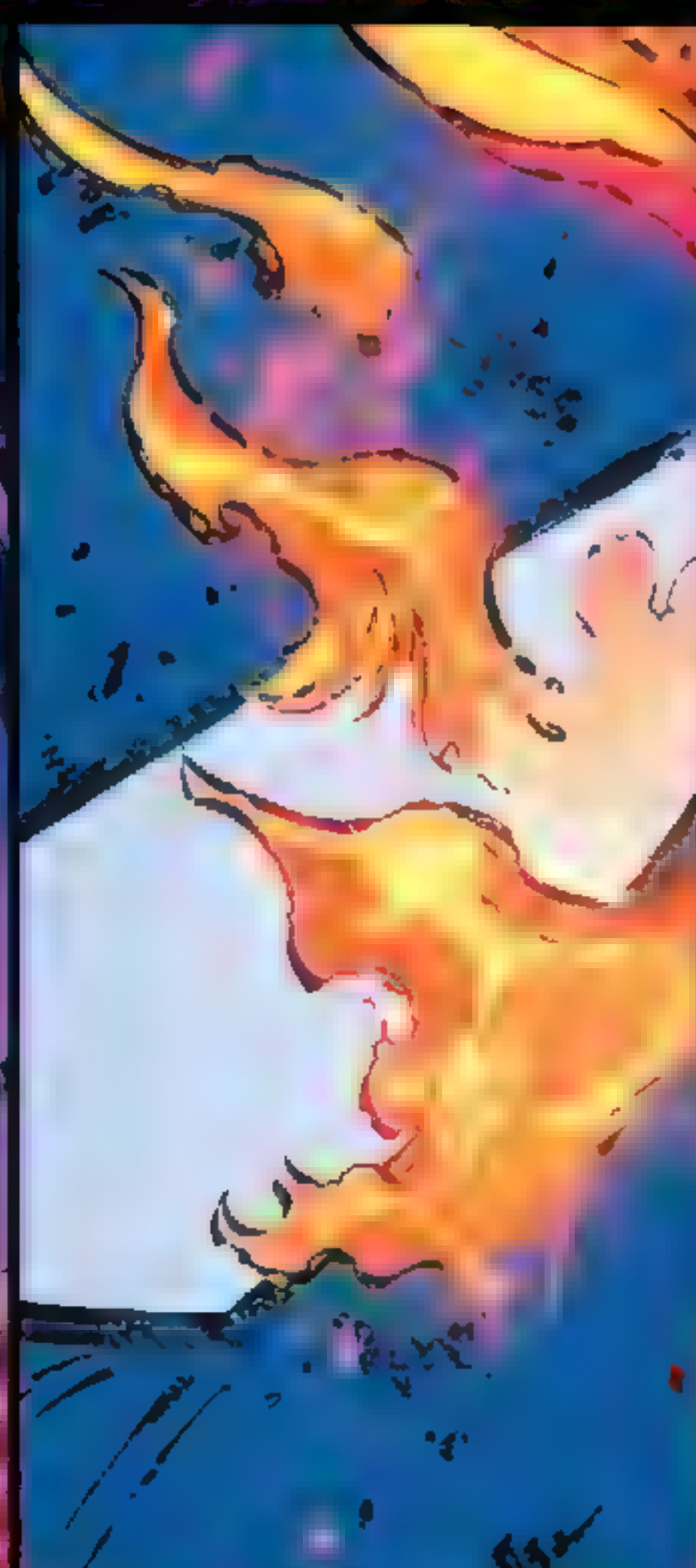
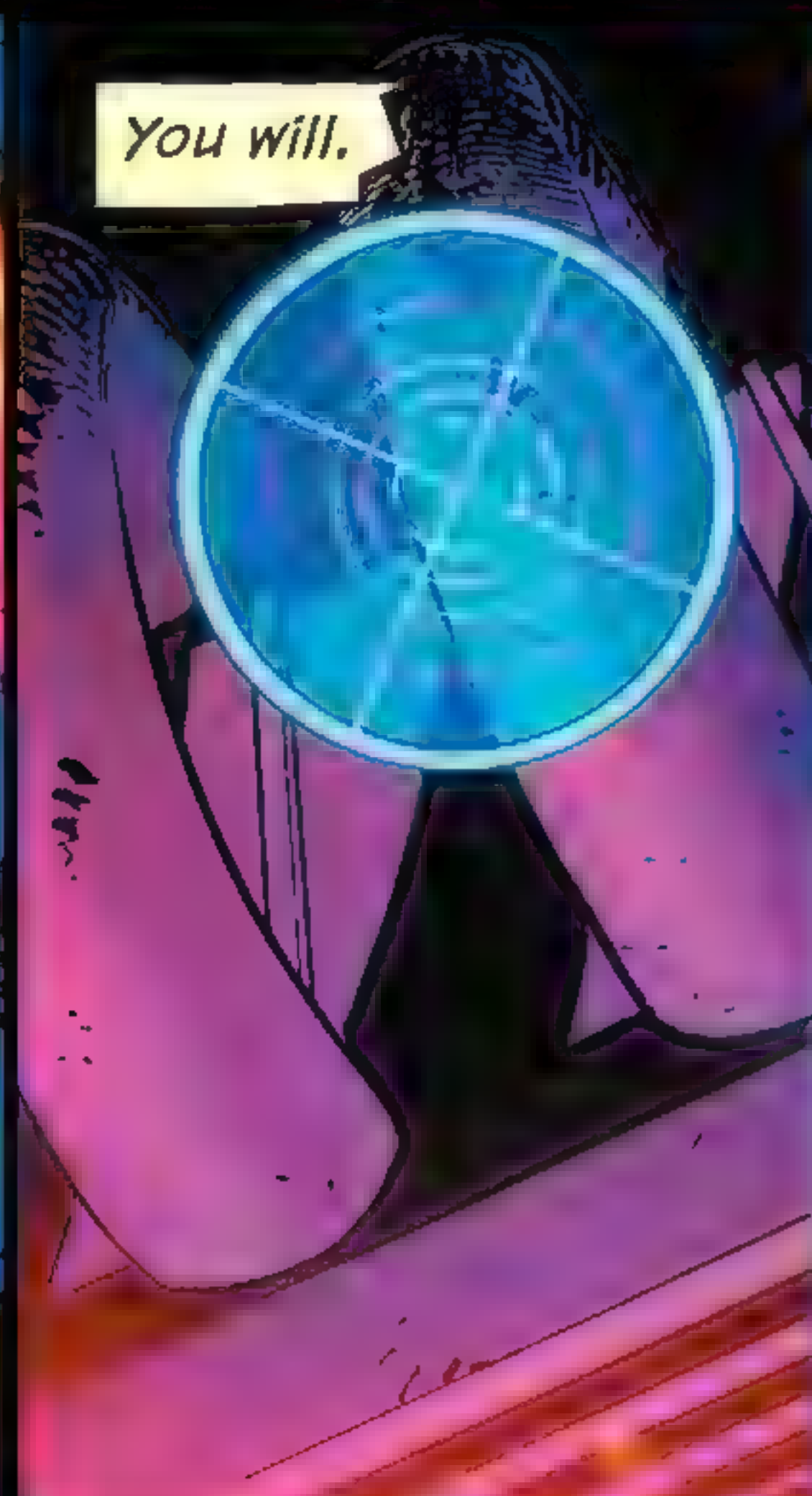
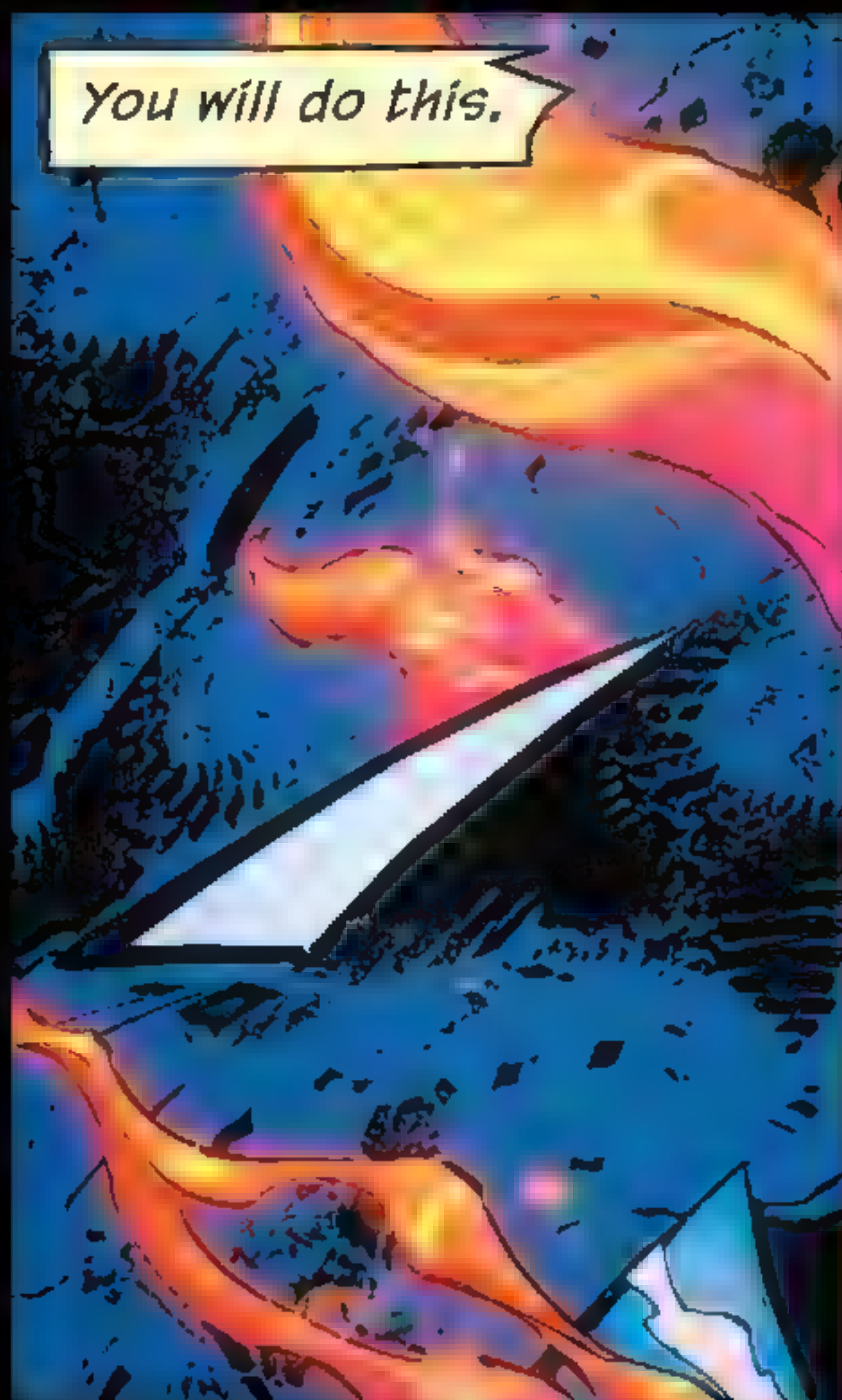
Alright. Now stop. Stop wondering  
if everything's in order for Barbara.  
Stop wondering if you told her you  
loved her the last time you spoke.

And most of all, stop  
thinking about all the times  
you missed in practice. Those  
were just for...suspense. Just  
for dramatic effect. Right  
now. Right here.



You will do this.

You will.







GET UP! WE NEED TO INFORM BLOOM OF THIS.

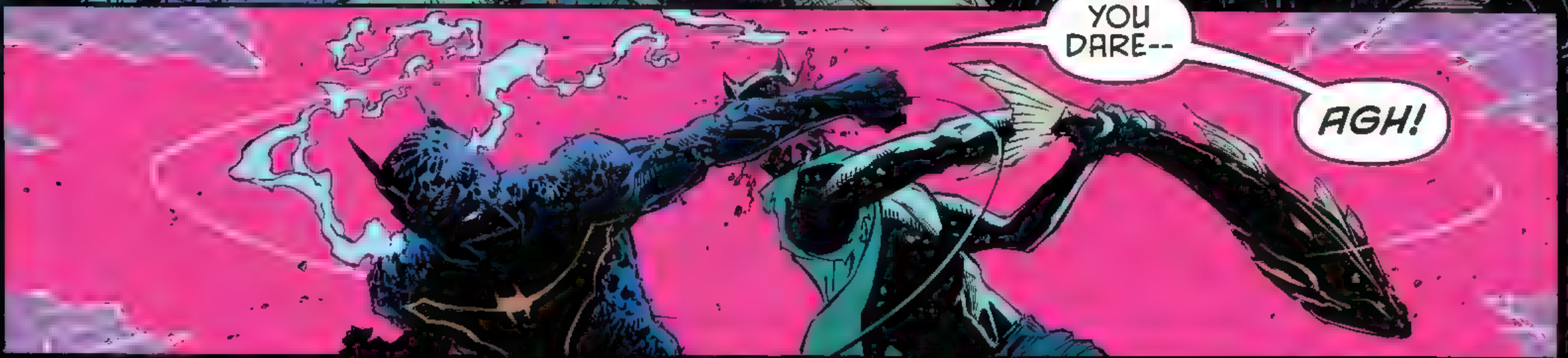
AGH! BUT... BUT, SIR, MY LEG WAS EATEN!

I DON'T CARE! GET UP! I SAID GET U--



ACTUALLY, HOW ABOUT YOU STAY DOWN?

NOW ~~=huff huff=~~ WHERE THE HELL IS BLOOM?



YOU DARE--

AGH!



Stupid, Batman. Stupid.

You're rushing into an ambush because you're still used to having backup. A partner.



ACK!

Striking as a team.

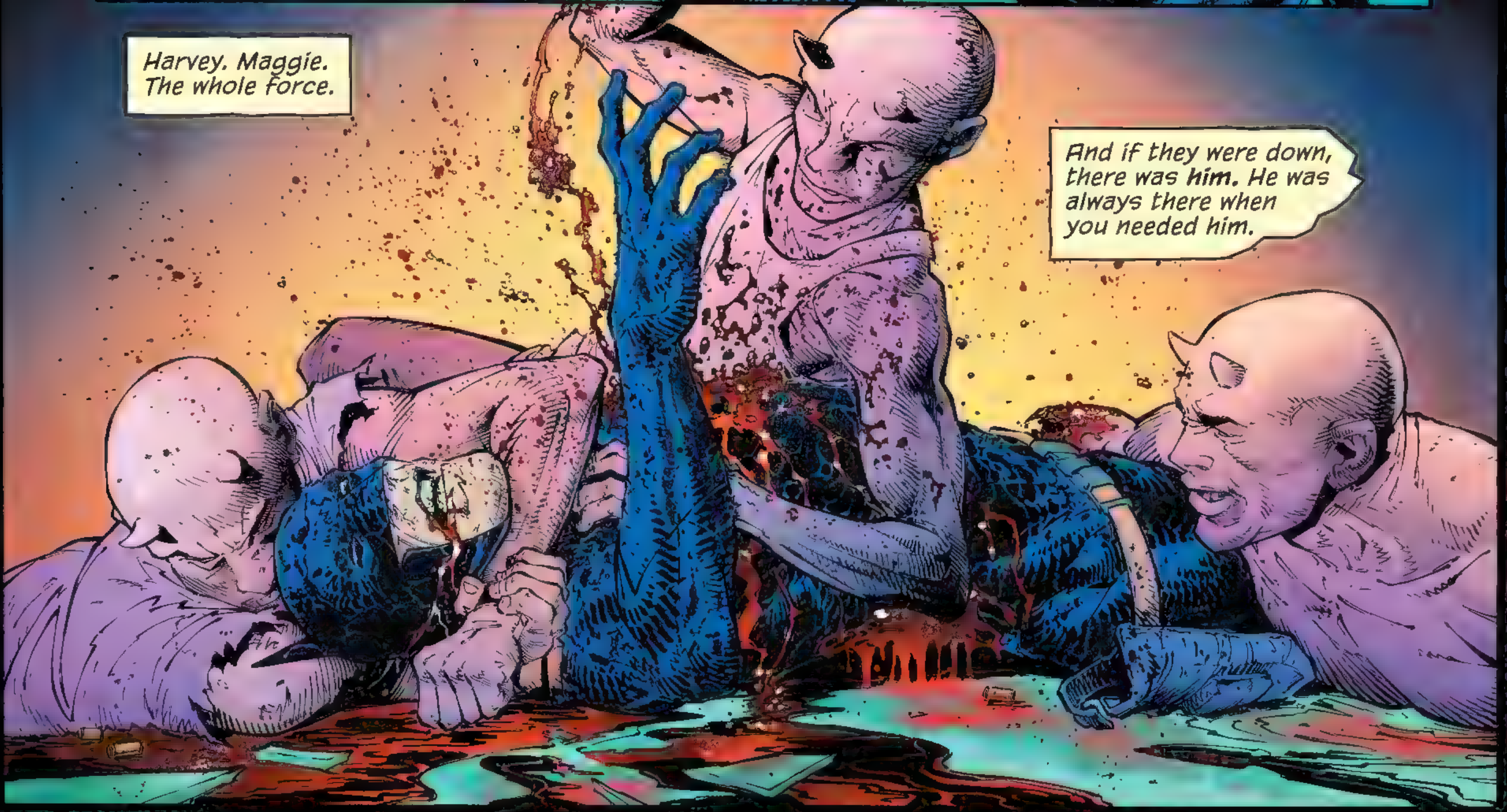


Someone always watching for the cheap shot.



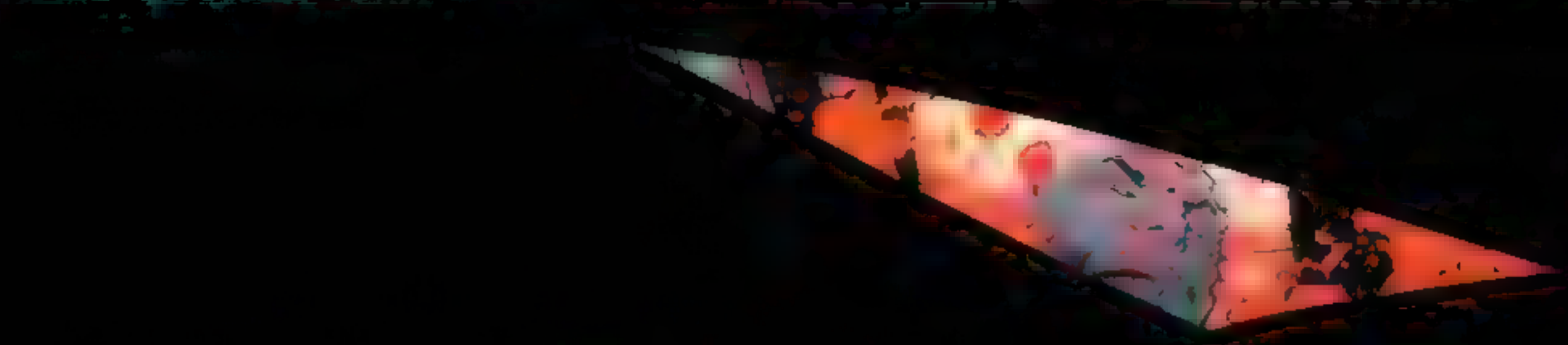


There to help  
when things get...  
critical.



Harvey. Maggie.  
The whole force.

And if they were down,  
there was *him*. He was  
always there when  
you needed him.



But guess what, when  
you're Batman...

...when you're Batman,  
Batman *doesn't* come  
save you.



Or does  
he?





I'M HERE  
TO PICK UP  
SOME CANNED  
TUNA?



~~Cough~~  
THAT WOULD  
BE ME.

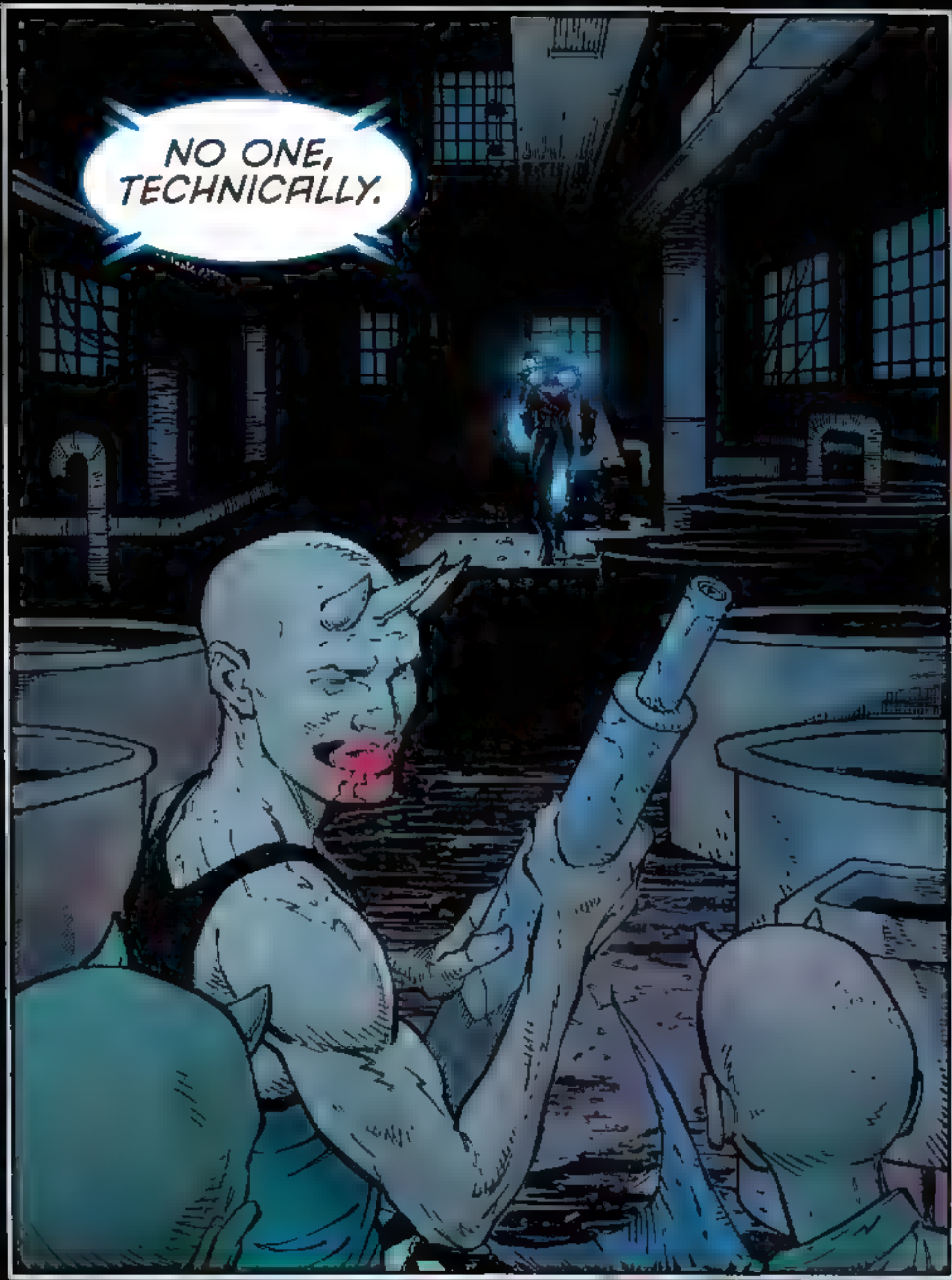
JULIA,  
SHE--



SHE'S SAFE WITH US. LISTEN,  
BATMAN, I WAS JOKING,  
BUT YOUR VITALS...YOU'RE  
IN TROUBLE. NOW THE SUIT  
WILL COME TO YOU. JUST  
PLEASE, STAY VERY  
STILL AND--

WAIT,  
WHO'S  
DRIVING THE  
SUIT?

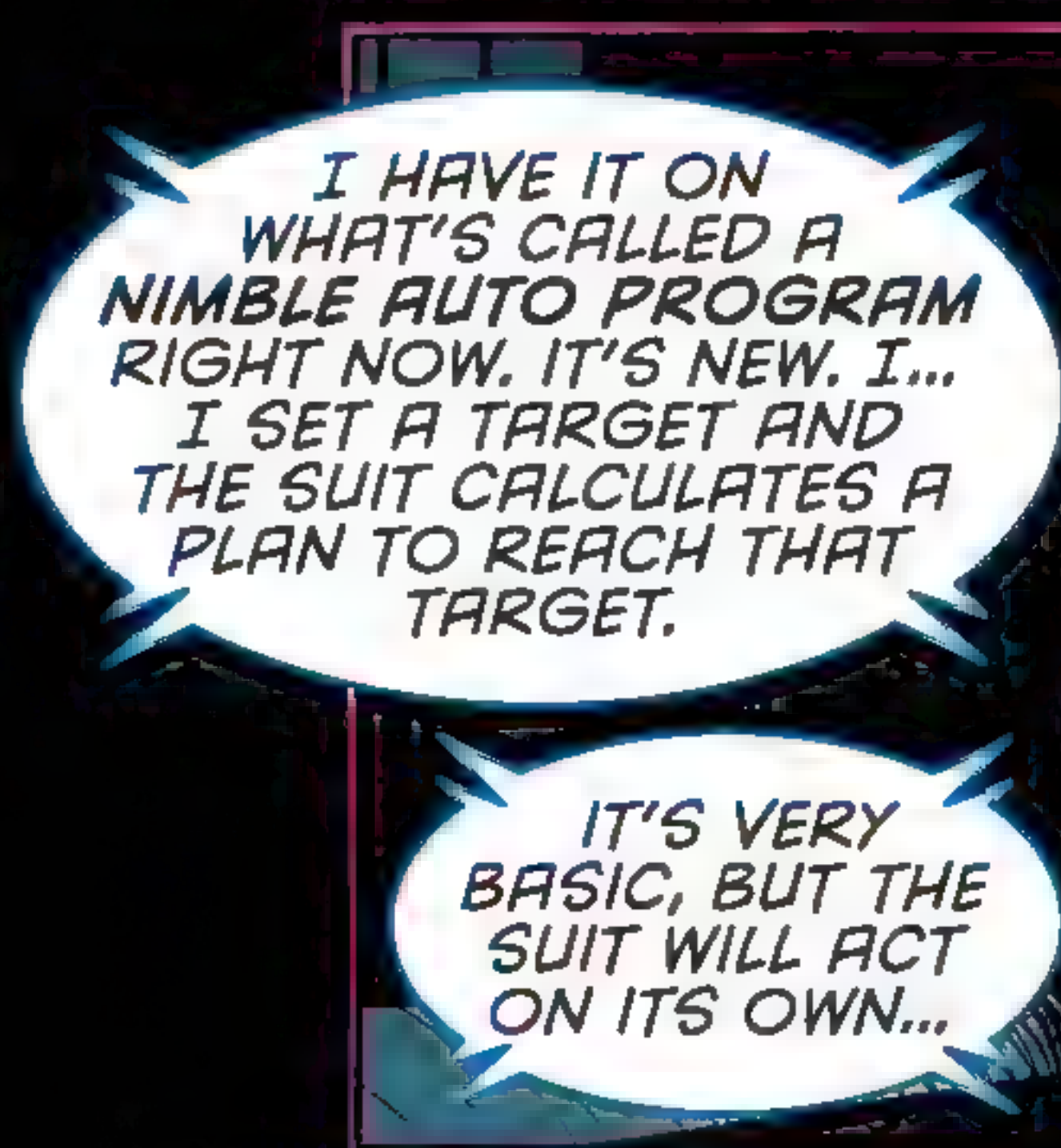




NO ONE,  
TECHNICALLY.

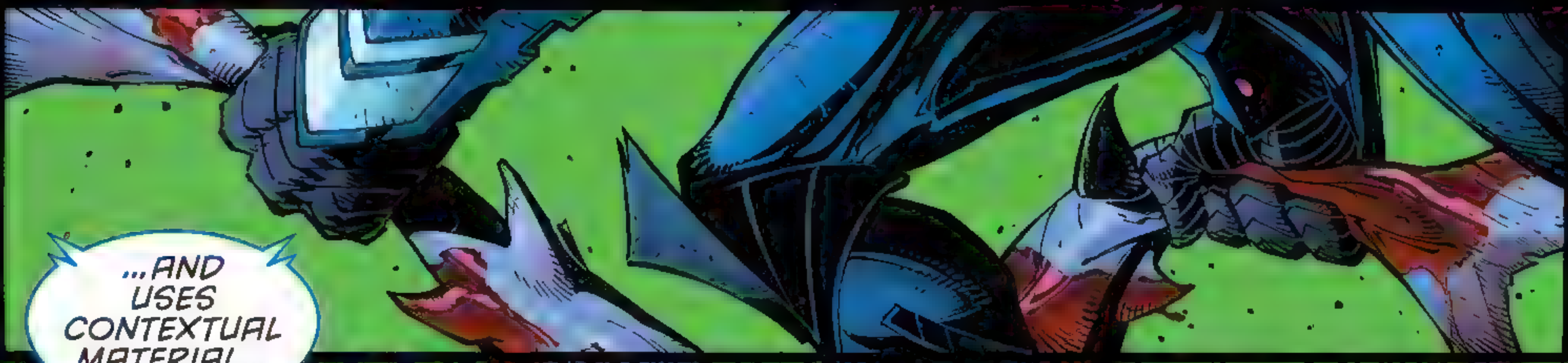


DIE, YOU  
OVERSIZED...



I HAVE IT ON  
WHAT'S CALLED A  
NIMBLE AUTO PROGRAM  
RIGHT NOW. IT'S NEW. I...  
I SET A TARGET AND  
THE SUIT CALCULATES A  
PLAN TO REACH THAT  
TARGET.

IT'S VERY  
BASIC, BUT THE  
SUIT WILL ACT  
ON ITS OWN...

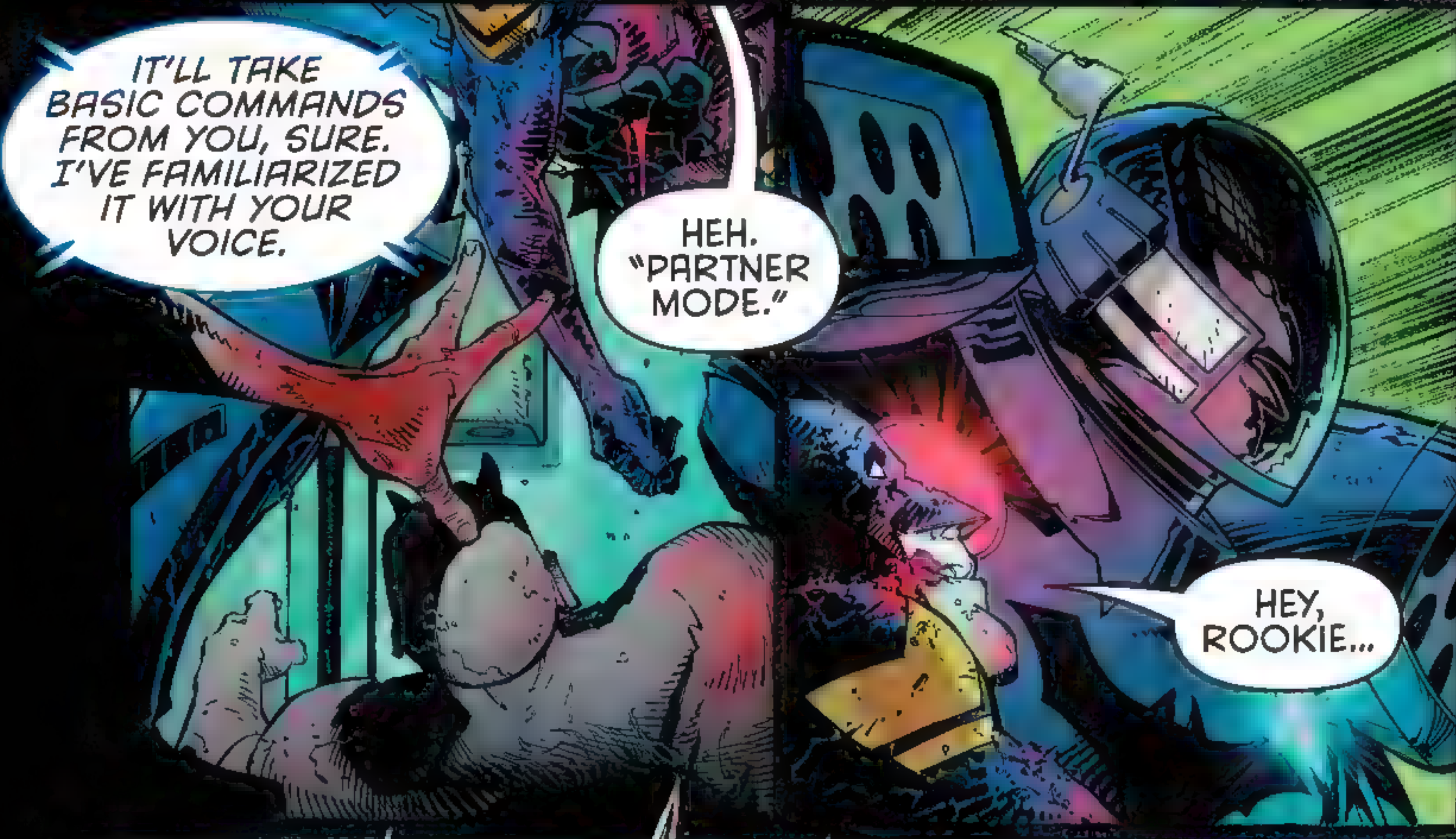
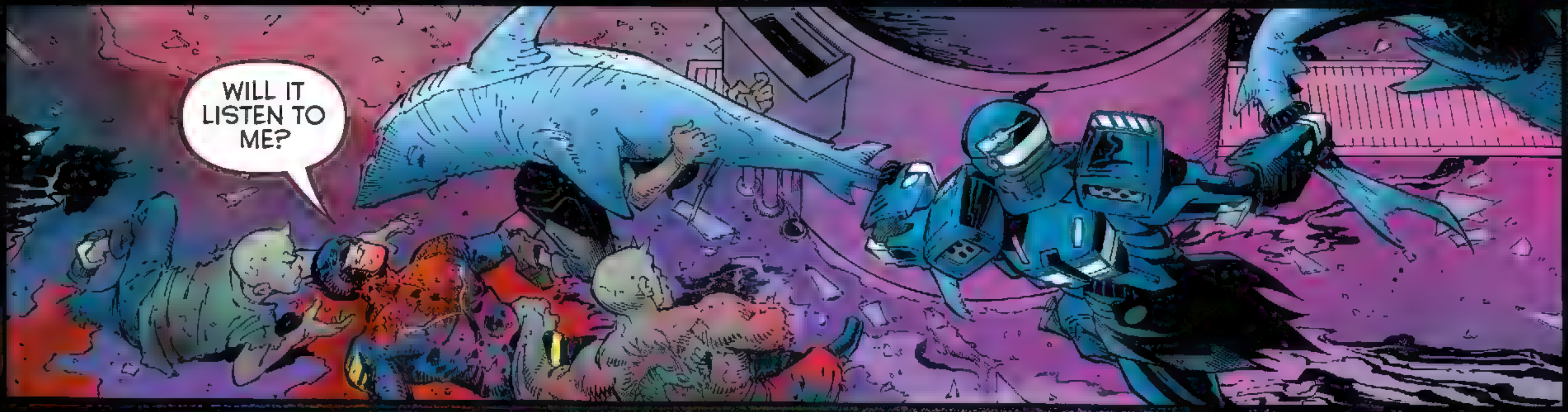


...AND  
USES  
CONTEXTUAL  
MATERIAL...



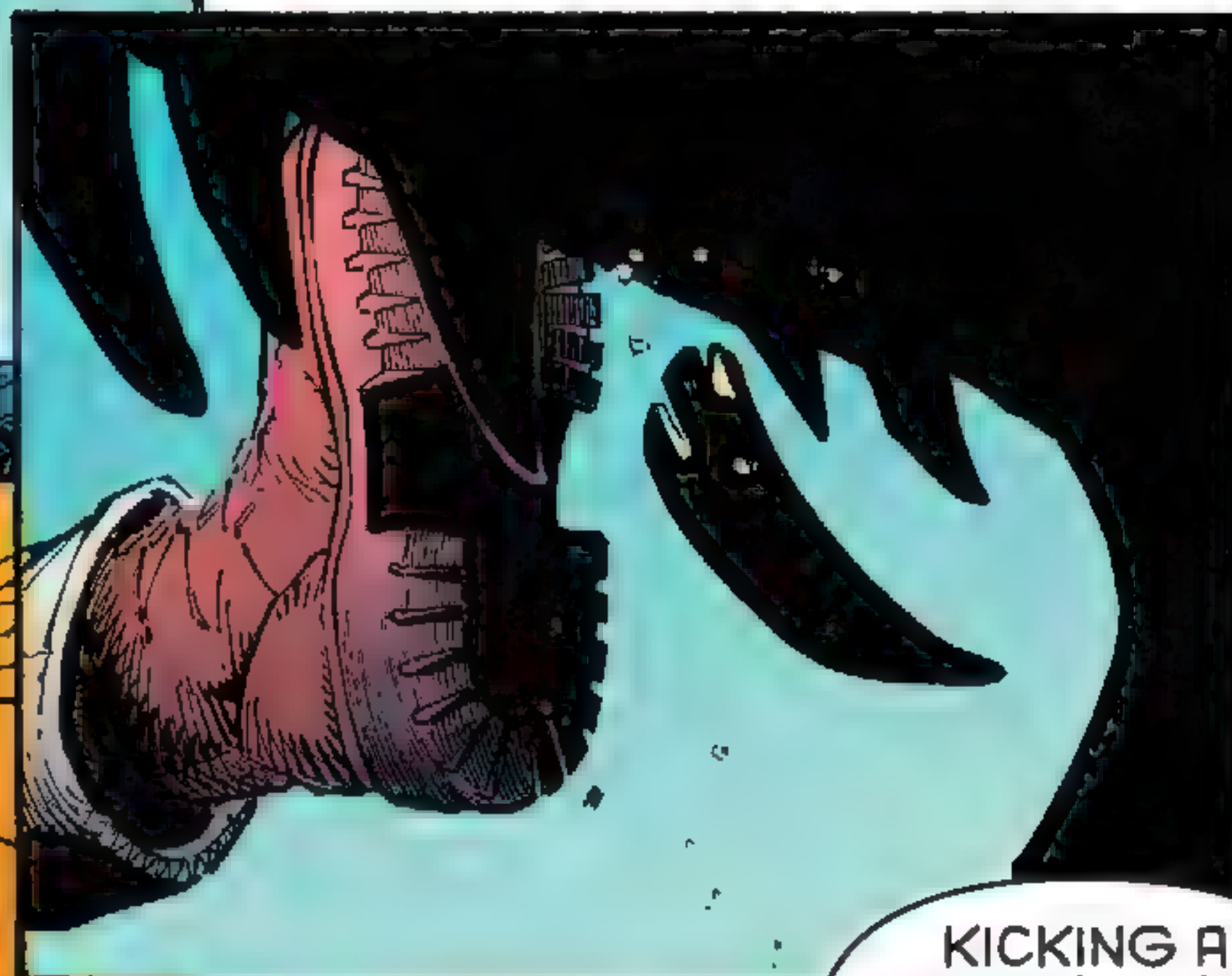
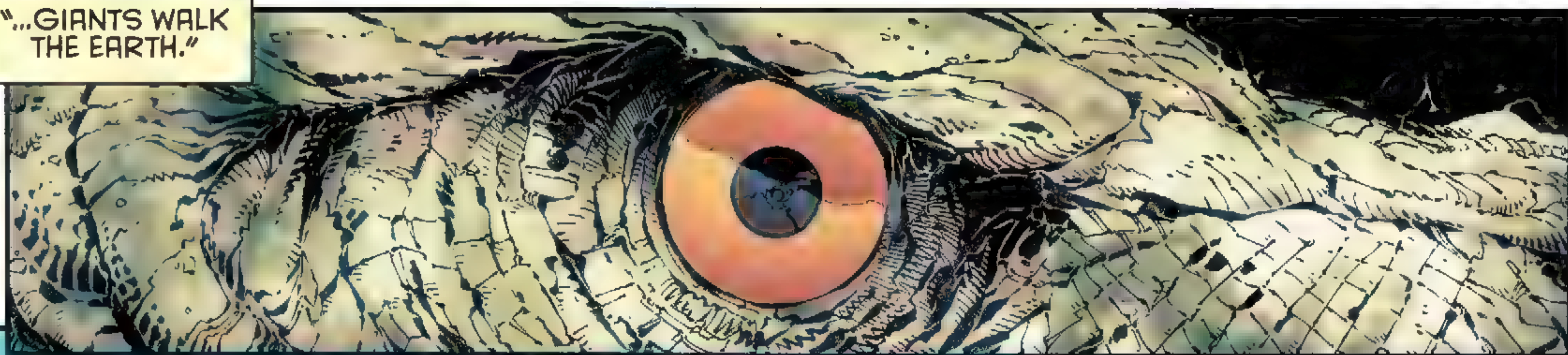
...TO  
ACHIEVE ITS  
GOAL.





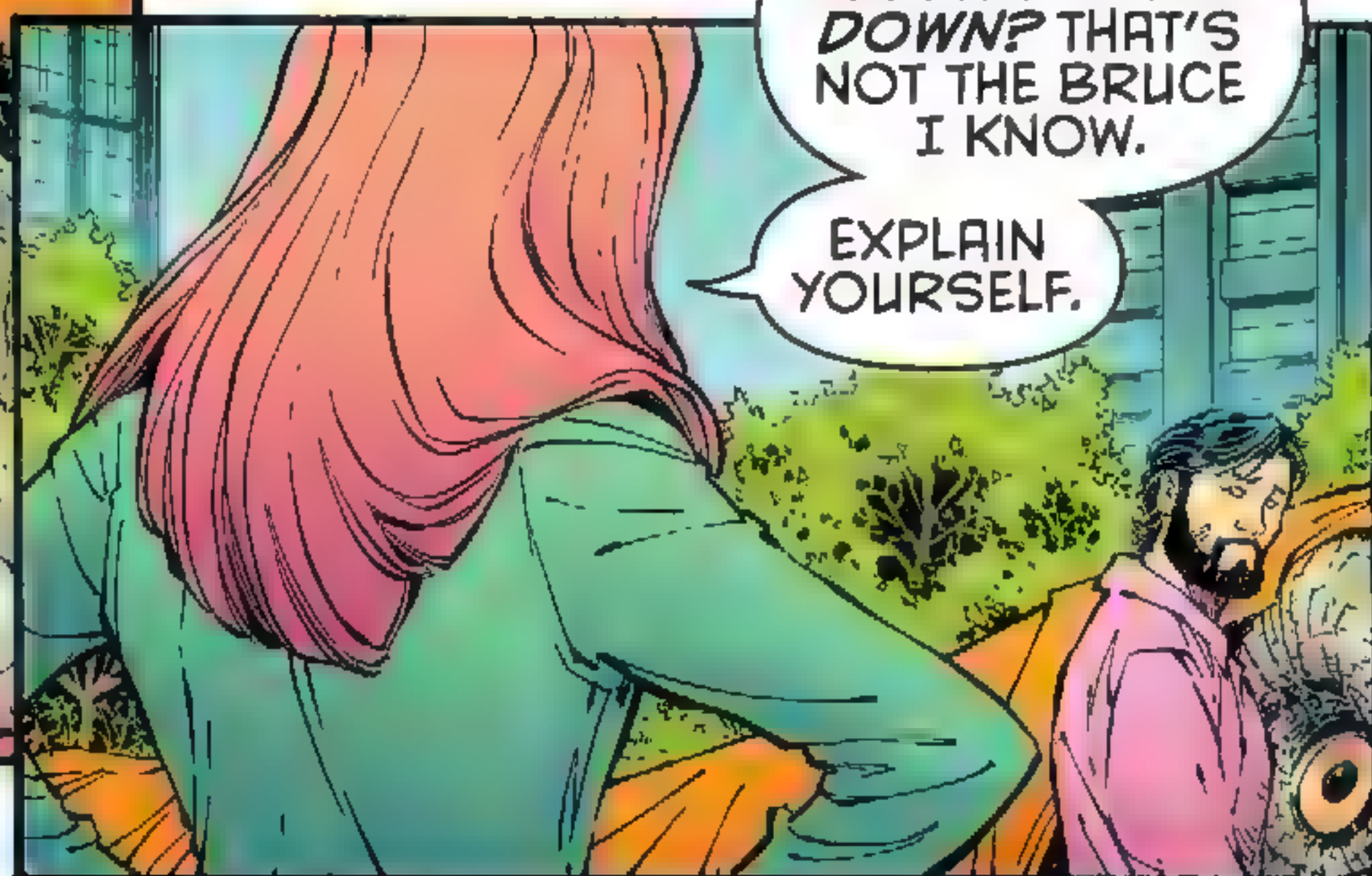


"...GIANTS WALK  
THE EARTH."



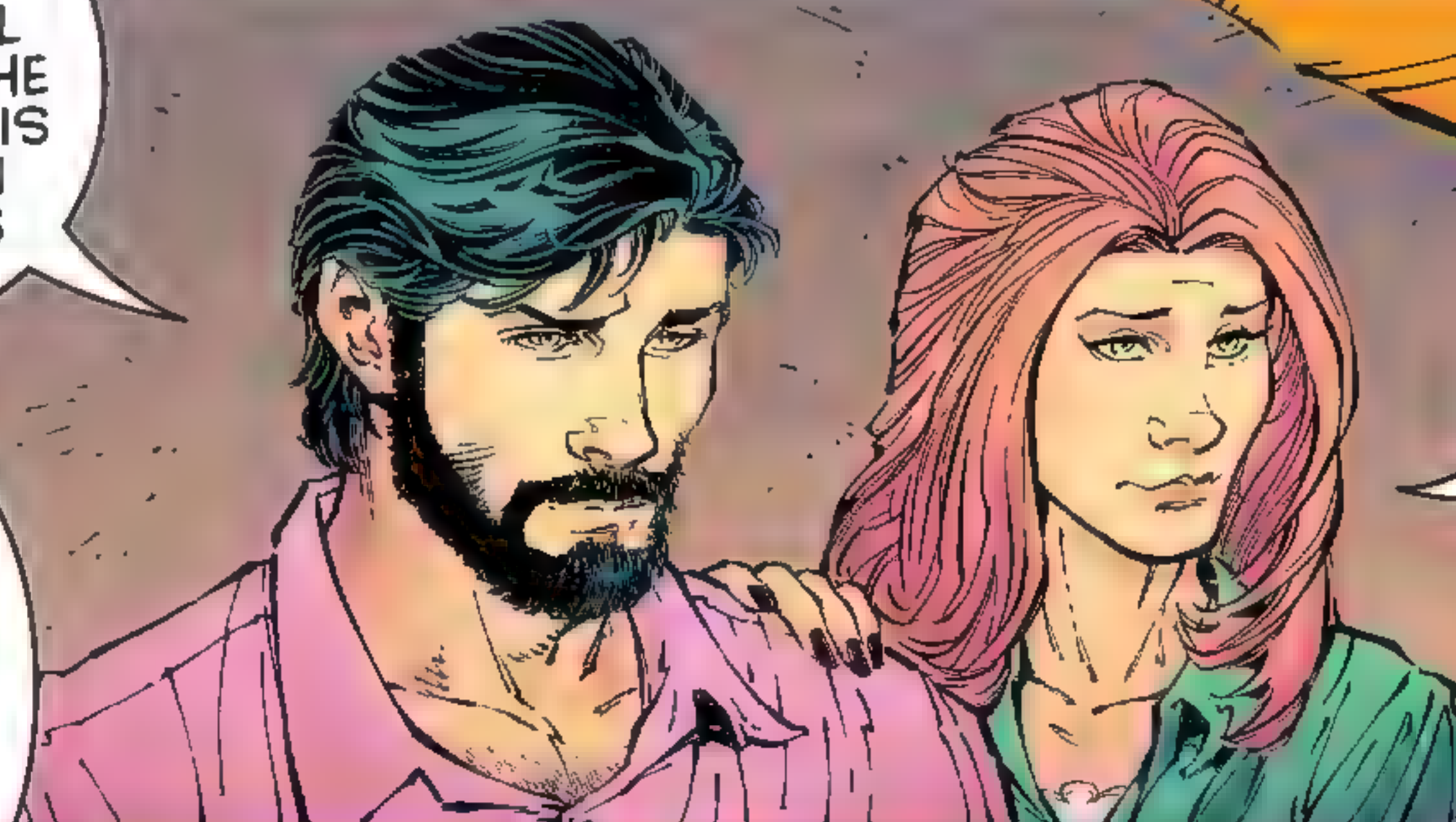
KICKING A  
MAN WHILE HE'S  
**DOWN?** THAT'S  
NOT THE BRUCE  
I KNOW.

EXPLAIN  
YOURSELF.



I ASKED ALFRED TO CALL  
SOME OLD FRIENDS OF THE  
FAMILY ABOUT HAVING THIS  
ALL **REMOVED**, BUT YOU  
WERE RIGHT, JULES, IT'S  
INTRACTABLE.

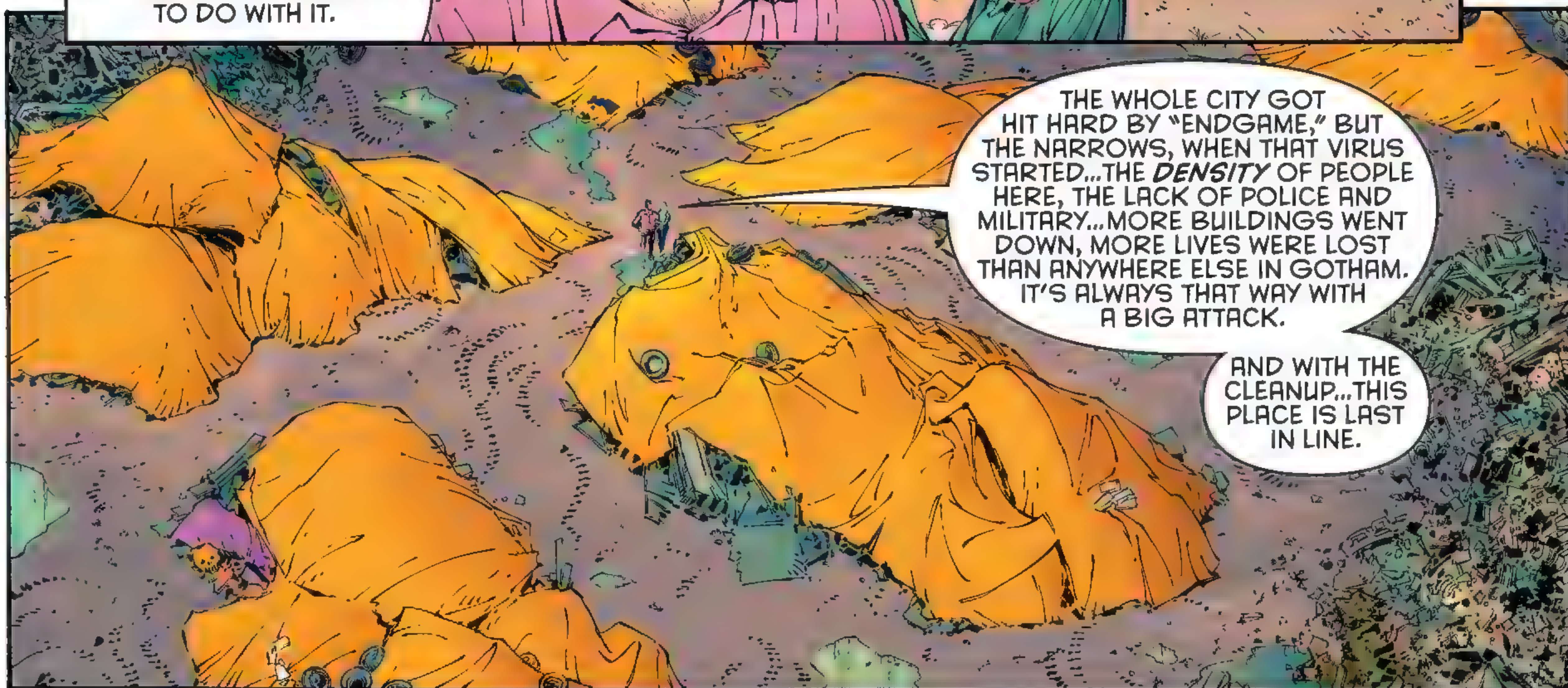
THE CITY HAS  
MANDATED ALL THE  
WRECKAGE FROM THE  
**JOKER'S** ATTACK STAY  
HERE IN THIS MAKESHIFT  
DUMP UNTIL THEY CAN  
FIGURE OUT WHAT  
TO DO WITH IT.



IT'S SWEET  
THAT YOU TRIED,  
BUT I COULD HAVE  
TOLD YOU THEY  
WOULDN'T  
BUDGE.

THE WHOLE CITY GOT  
HIT HARD BY "ENDGAME," BUT  
THE NARROWS, WHEN THAT VIRUS  
STARTED...THE **DENSITY** OF PEOPLE  
HERE, THE LACK OF POLICE AND  
MILITARY...MORE BUILDINGS WENT  
DOWN, MORE LIVES WERE LOST  
THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN GOTHAM.  
IT'S ALWAYS THAT WAY WITH  
A BIG ATTACK.

AND WITH THE  
CLEANUP...THIS  
PLACE IS LAST  
IN LINE.

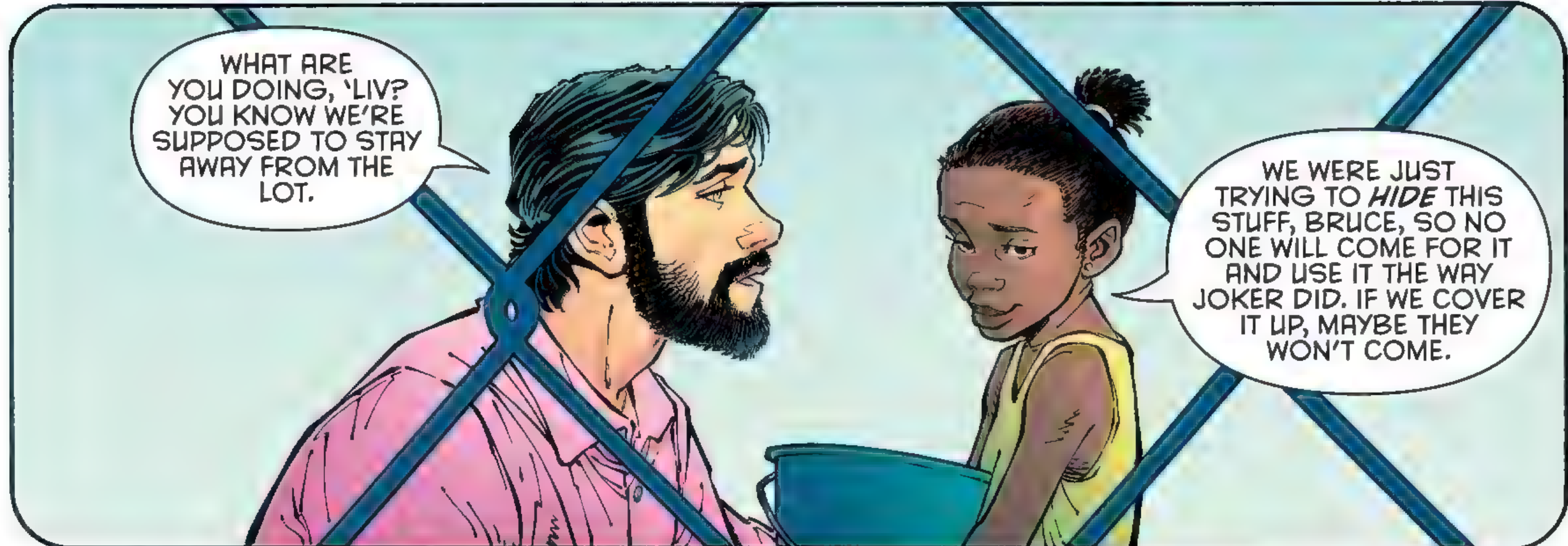






"I FOUND MIGUEL, OLIVIA, AND RADIK OUT HERE THIS MORNING."

"THEY WERE THROWING DIRT OVER THE FENCE."



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, 'LIV? YOU KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE LOT.

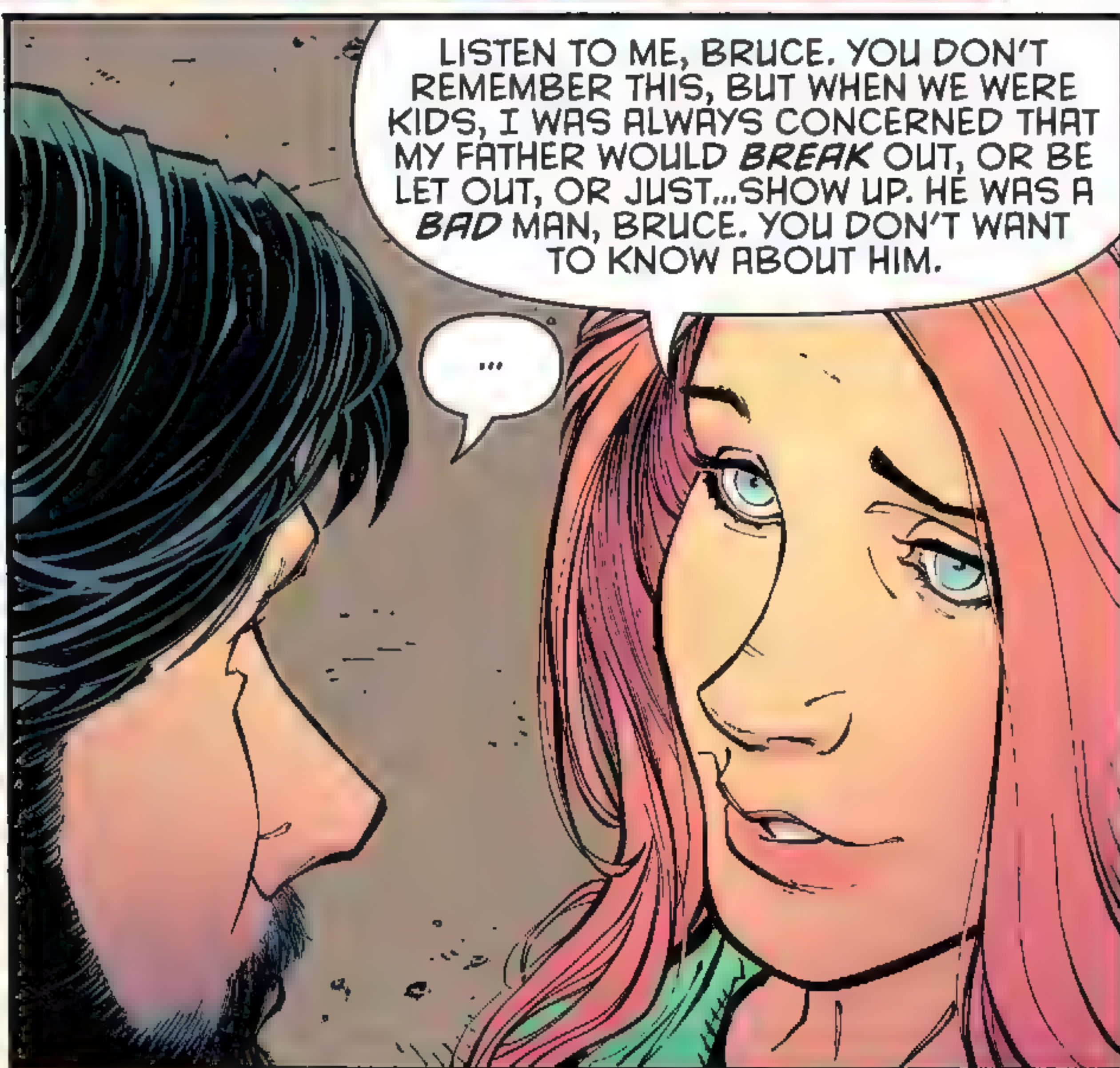
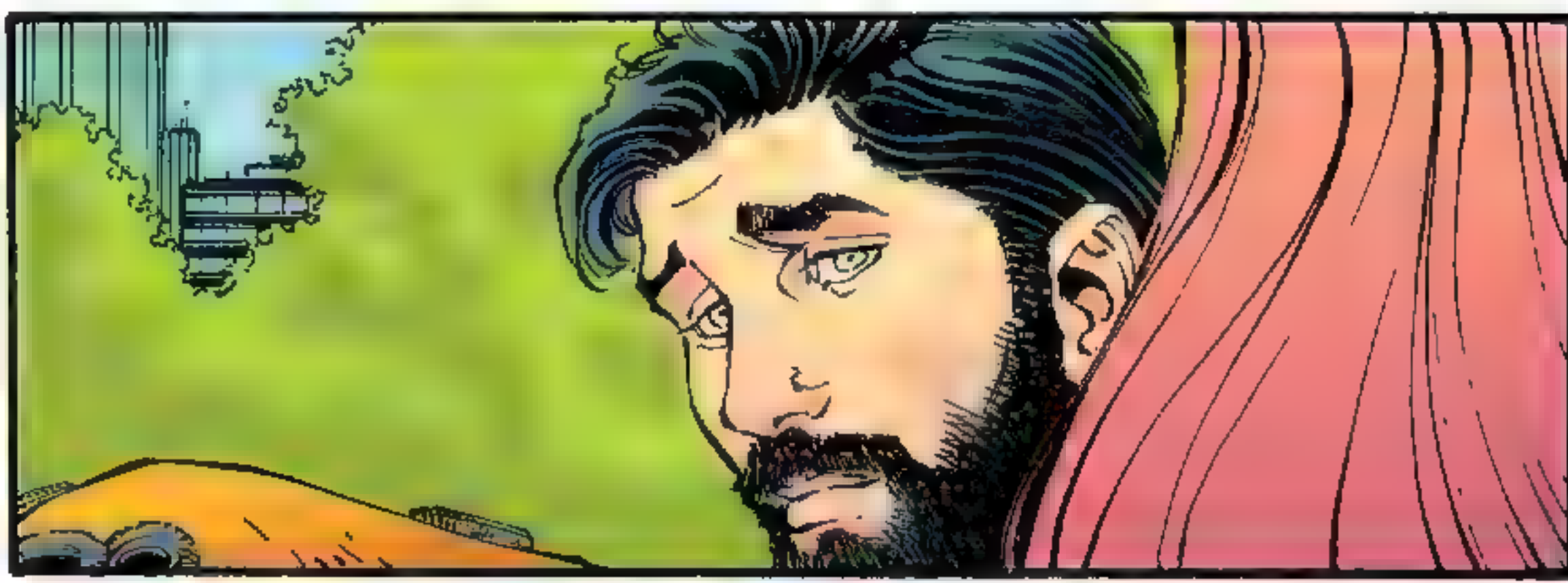
WE WERE JUST TRYING TO *HIDE* THIS STUFF, BRUCE, SO NO ONE WILL COME FOR IT AND USE IT THE WAY JOKER DID. IF WE COVER IT UP, MAYBE THEY WON'T COME.



LUCIUS FOX WANTED THIS TO BE A *REFUGE* FOR THESE KIDS. BUT THEY'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE NEXT HORROR, JULES. NOW RUMORS OF THIS NEW GUY...THIS *BLOOM*. AND THESE REMINDERS...

THESE KIDS DON'T FEEL SAFE. NOT REALLY.

JIM GORDON'S VISIT IS STILL ON YOUR MIND, ISN'T IT?



LISTEN TO ME, BRUCE. YOU DON'T REMEMBER THIS, BUT WHEN WE WERE KIDS, I WAS ALWAYS CONCERNED THAT MY FATHER WOULD *BREAK* OUT, OR BE LET OUT, OR JUST...SHOW UP. HE WAS A *BAD* MAN, BRUCE. YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HIM.

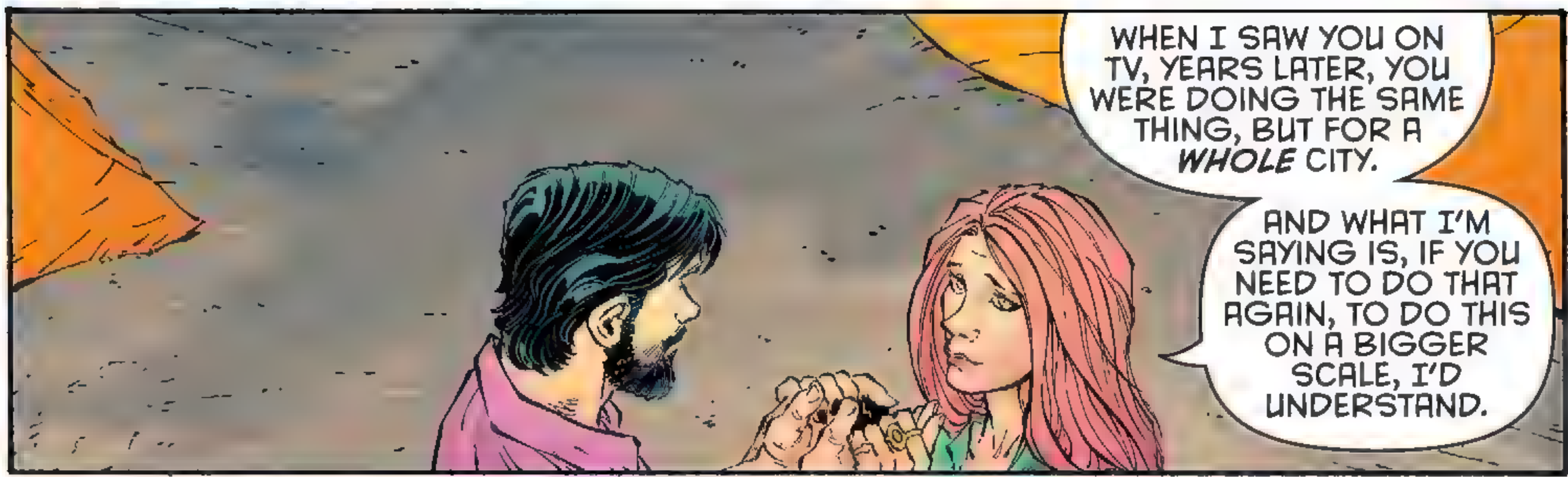
...

"I WAS ALWAYS TOUGHENING MYSELF UP. READYING FOR THAT DAY. BUT YOU...THE THING ABOUT YOU WAS, YOU'D BEEN THROUGH SOMETHING TRAUMATIC, AND INSTEAD OF MAKING YOURSELF FEEL SAFE, LIKE ME...

"...YOU CHanneled WHATEVER FEAR YOU FELT INTO MAKING *OTHER* PEOPLE FEEL BRAVE. I LOVED YOU FOR THAT."

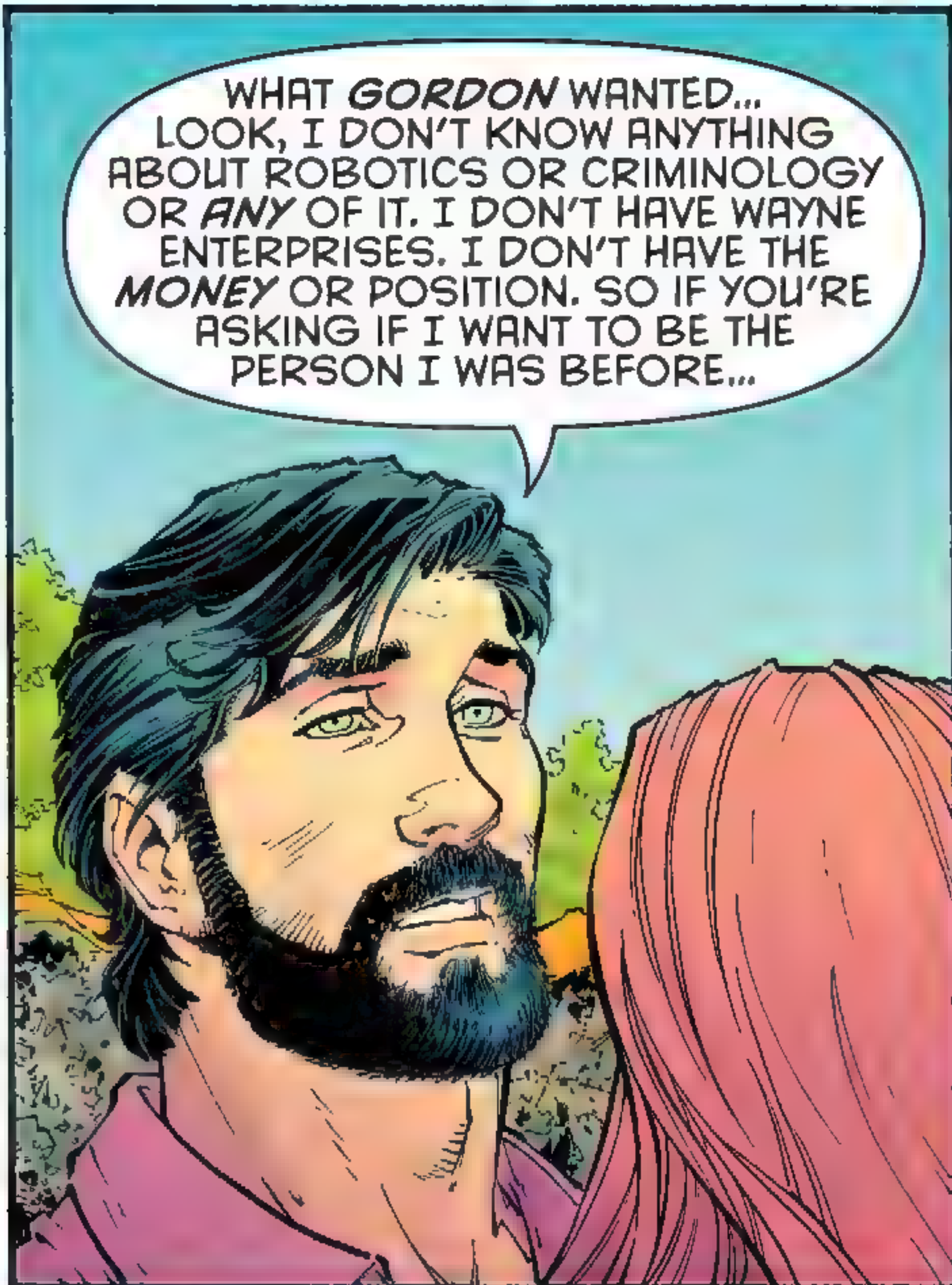






WHEN I SAW YOU ON TV, YEARS LATER, YOU WERE DOING THE SAME THING, BUT FOR A **WHOLE CITY**.

AND WHAT I'M SAYING IS, IF YOU NEED TO DO THAT AGAIN, TO DO THIS ON A BIGGER SCALE, I'D UNDERSTAND.

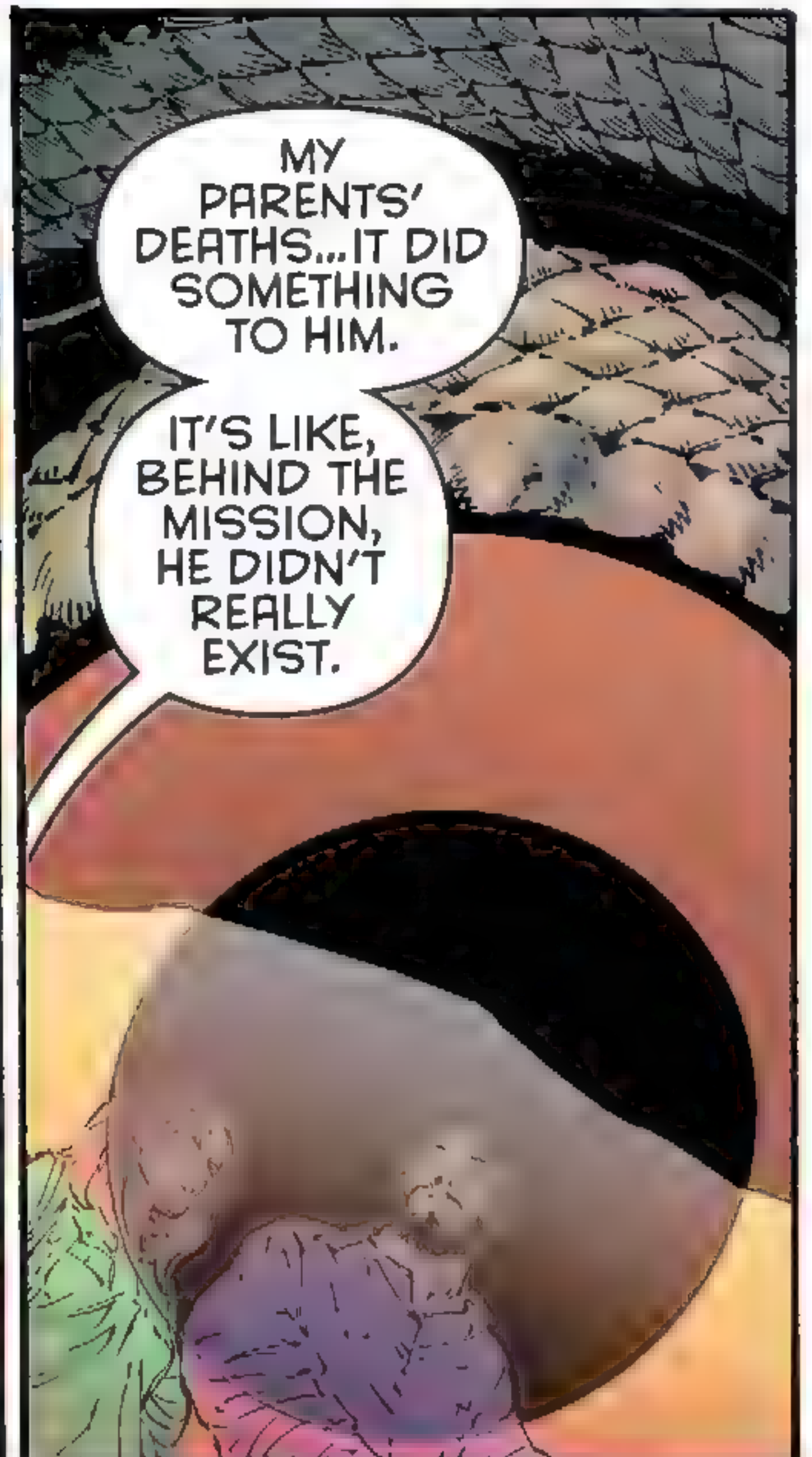


WHAT **GORDON** WANTED... LOOK, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ROBOTICS OR CRIMINOLOGY OR **ANY** OF IT. I DON'T HAVE WAYNE ENTERPRISES. I DON'T HAVE THE **MONEY** OR POSITION. SO IF YOU'RE ASKING IF I WANT TO BE THE PERSON I WAS BEFORE...



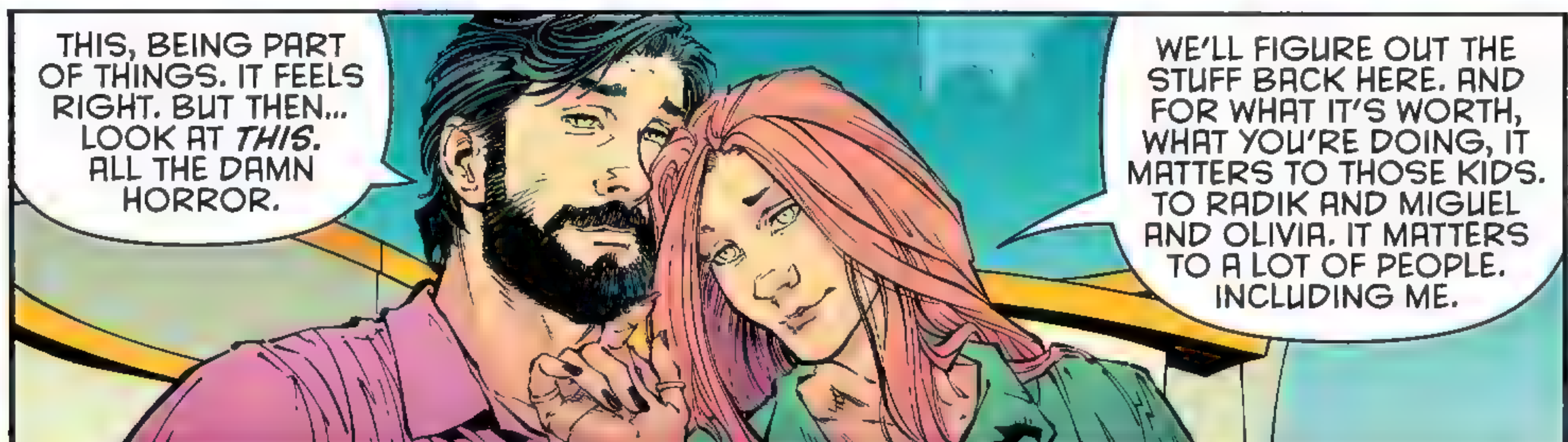
I WENT BACK TO THE MANOR THE OTHER DAY. JUST TO...SEE, I GUESS. I LOOKED THROUGH MY OLD CLOSETS. I EVEN TRIED ON MY SUITS.

THE THING IS, THERE WAS NO TRACE OF A LIFE THERE. THAT BRUCE HAD NO PICTURES ANYWHERE. NOT OF FAMILY OR FRIENDS. NOT OF THE PEOPLE HE'D HELPED.



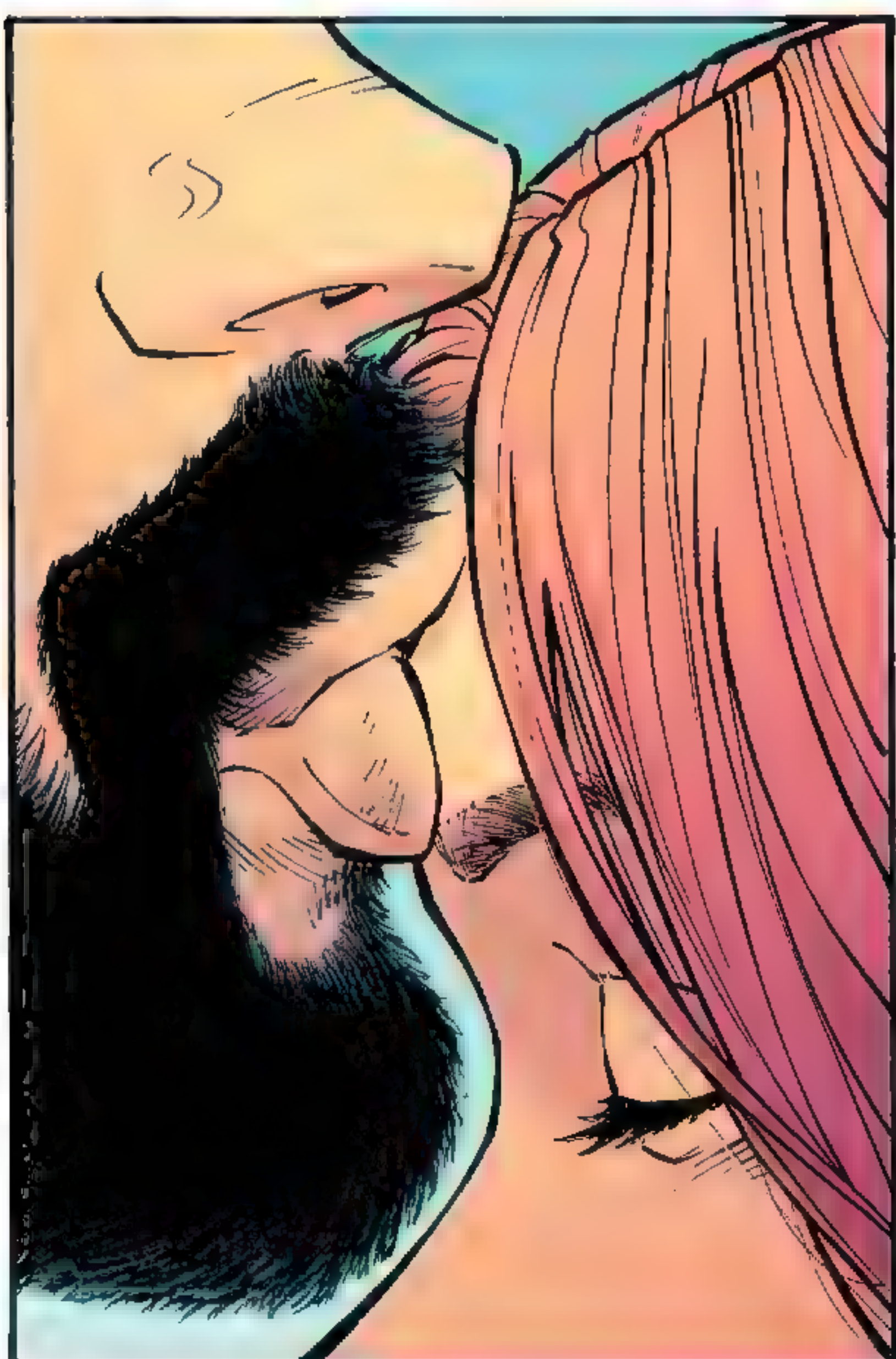
MY PARENTS' DEATHS...IT DID SOMETHING TO HIM.

IT'S LIKE, BEHIND THE MISSION, HE DIDN'T REALLY EXIST.



THIS, BEING PART OF THINGS. IT FEELS RIGHT. BUT THEN... LOOK AT **THIS**. ALL THE DAMN HORROR.

WE'LL FIGURE OUT THE STUFF BACK HERE. AND FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, WHAT YOU'RE DOING, IT MATTERS TO THOSE KIDS. TO RADIK AND MIGUEL AND OLIVIA. IT MATTERS TO A LOT OF PEOPLE. INCLUDING ME.



LISTEN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I L--

SHUT UP.



LET'S GO BACK IN. SINCE THERE'S **NOTHING** WE CAN DO ABOUT THIS STUFF TODAY...



"...LET'S JUST CLOSE  
THE DOOR ON IT,  
BEST WE CAN."

DID YOU HEAR  
SOMETHING?

"ANYONE  
HOME?"



HELLO?

I COME  
BEARING  
GIFTS.

THAT'S  
SWEET, JIM.

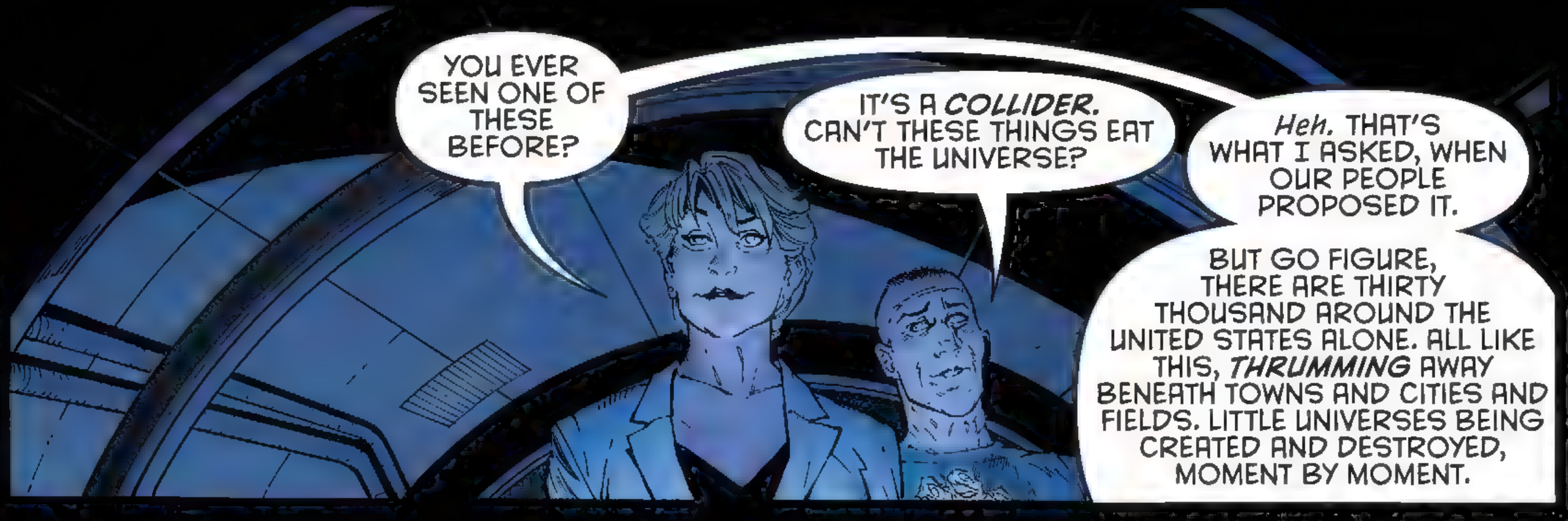
(EVEN IF  
THOSE ARE  
FROM THE  
HALLWAY.)

BUT SEE, THIS  
IS THE PART WHERE  
I REVEAL MYSELF TO  
BE THE *VILLAIN* OF  
THE STORY. LET ME  
SHOW YOU MY  
EVIL BASE.

WHOR.

SEE?  
WALK WITH  
ME.



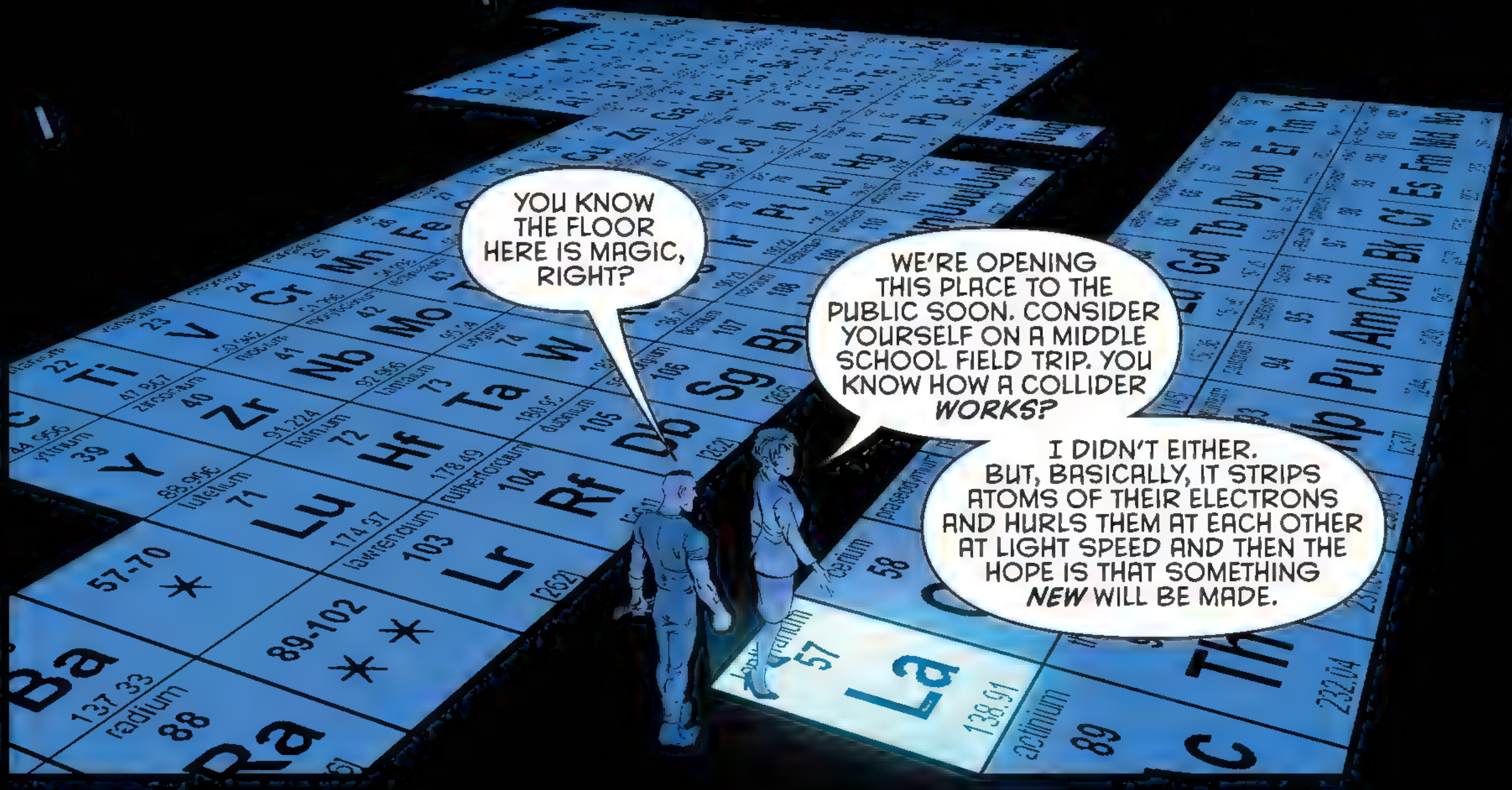


YOU EVER  
SEEN ONE OF  
THESE  
BEFORE?

IT'S A *COLLIDER*.  
CAN'T THESE THINGS EAT  
THE UNIVERSE?

Heh. THAT'S  
WHAT I ASKED, WHEN  
OUR PEOPLE  
PROPOSED IT.

BUT GO FIGURE,  
THERE ARE THIRTY  
THOUSAND AROUND THE  
UNITED STATES ALONE. ALL LIKE  
THIS, *THRUMMING* AWAY  
BENEATH TOWNS AND CITIES AND  
FIELDS. LITTLE UNIVERSES BEING  
CREATED AND DESTROYED,  
MOMENT BY MOMENT.



YOU KNOW  
THE FLOOR  
HERE IS MAGIC,  
RIGHT?

WE'RE OPENING  
THIS PLACE TO THE  
PUBLIC SOON. CONSIDER  
YOURSELF ON A MIDDLE  
SCHOOL FIELD TRIP. YOU  
KNOW HOW A COLLIDER  
*WORKS*?

I DIDN'T EITHER.  
BUT, BASICALLY, IT STRIPS  
ATOMS OF THEIR ELECTRONS  
AND HURLS THEM AT EACH OTHER  
AT LIGHT SPEED AND THEN THE  
HOPE IS THAT SOMETHING  
*NEW* WILL BE MADE.

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE  
BEEN AFTER HERE, JIM.  
*NEW ELEMENTS*. UNKNOWN  
TO NATURE. THINGS THAT LIE  
JUST BEYOND THE EDGE OF  
THE KNOWN PERIODIC  
TABLE.

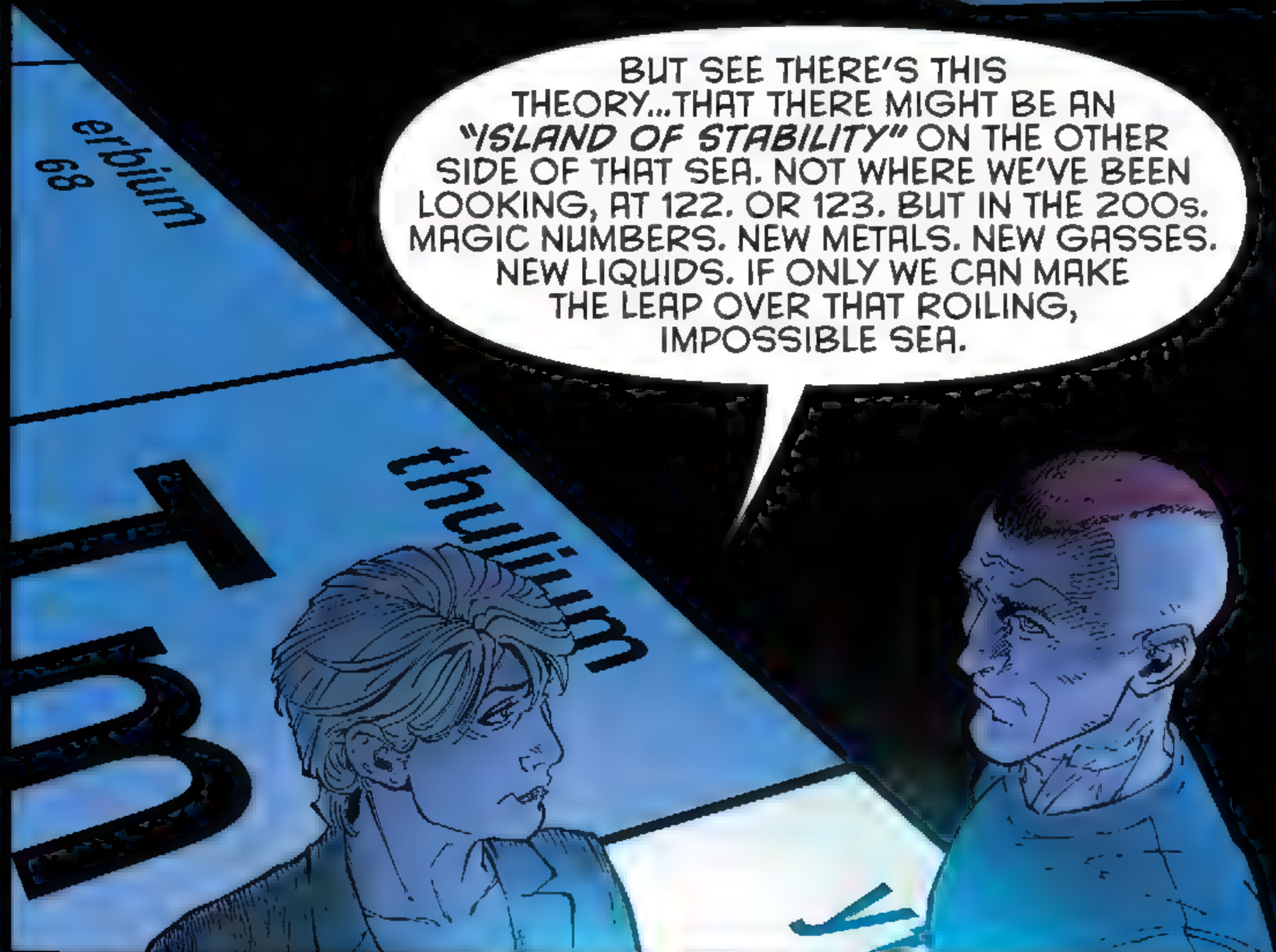
THE PROBLEM WITH  
MAKING NEW ELEMENTS,  
THOUGH, IS THAT UP AT THE  
FAR END OF THE PERIODIC  
TABLE, ONCE YOU GET INTO  
THE 80s, THINGS GET  
UNSTABLE.

ATOMS ARE  
SIMPLY TOO BIG TO HOLD.  
IT'S LIKE THE PERIODIC TABLE  
ENDS AT THIS MASSIVE SEA  
OF INSTABILITY AND  
RADIOACTIVE DECAY.

BUT SEE THERE'S THIS  
THEORY... THAT THERE MIGHT BE AN  
*"ISLAND OF STABILITY"* ON THE OTHER  
SIDE OF THAT SEA. NOT WHERE WE'VE BEEN  
LOOKING, AT 122. OR 123. BUT IN THE 200s.  
MAGIC NUMBERS. NEW METALS. NEW GASSES.  
NEW LIQUIDS. IF ONLY WE CAN MAKE  
THE LEAP OVER THAT ROILING,  
IMPOSSIBLE SEA.

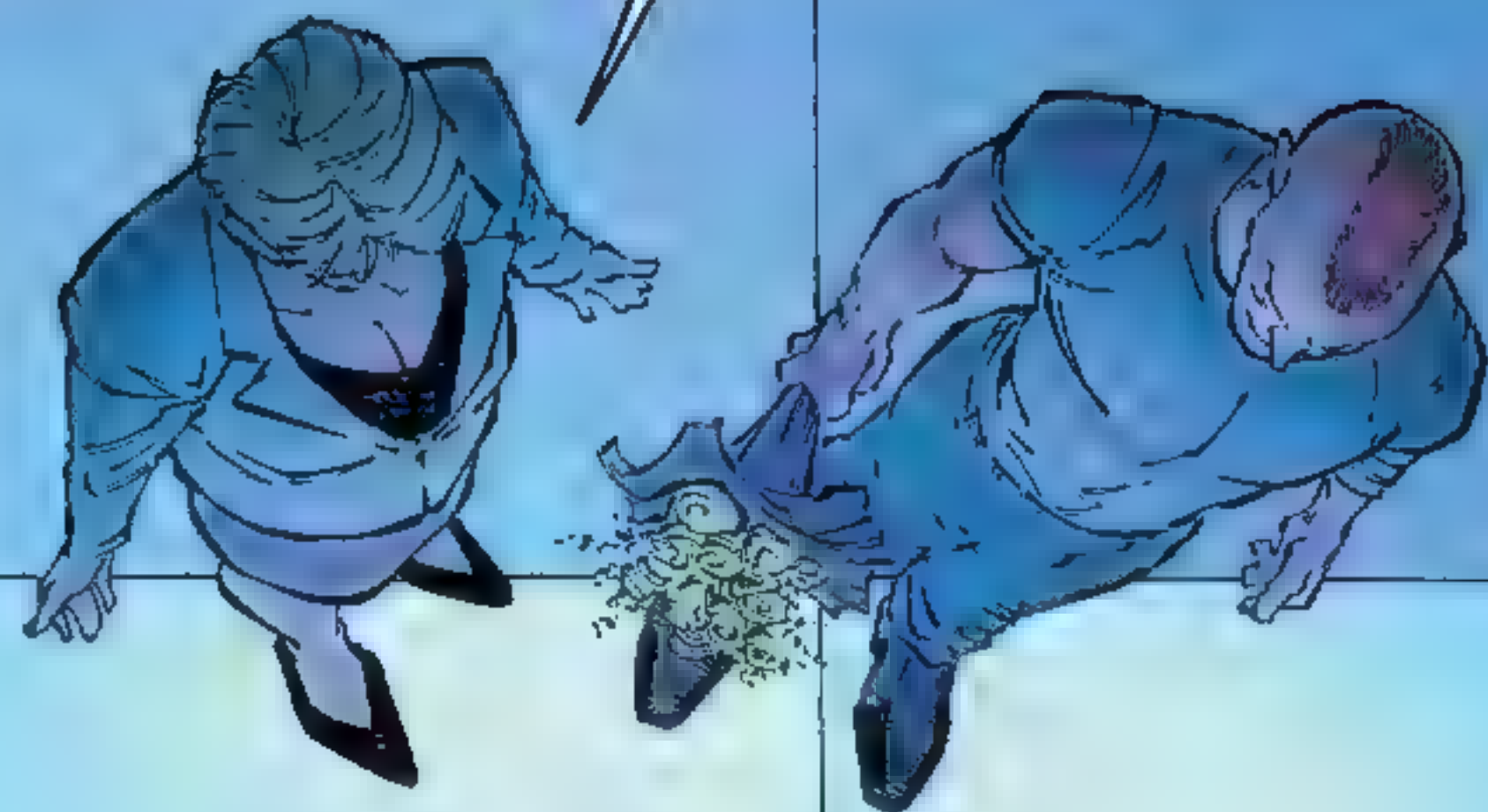
GERI, LISTEN TO ME.  
I'M SORRY I WENT  
OFF-GRID, BUT I NEED  
TO GO AFTER  
THIS GUY.

LOOK  
DOWN.





LAST YEAR, WE *DID* IT. RIGHT HERE, WE REACHED THE ISLAND. WE CREATED *FOUR* NEW ELEMENTS. NEW BUILDING BLOCKS, HERE UNDER GOTHAM. THE NEWEST HAS AN ATOMIC NUMBER OF 206. HIGHER THAN PEOPLE THOUGHT POSSIBLE.



I WAS GOING TO PRESENT A PIECE TO YOU AT THAT GALA YOU MISSED. I HAD IT CUT TO ORDER. TAKE A LOOK.

TRY PICKING IT UP.



YOU *COULDN'T*. IT WEIGHS TWO TONS. IT'S ALSO A SUPER-CONDUCTOR.

BATMANIUM 206? GERI, LISTEN. THIS GUY, BLOOM...

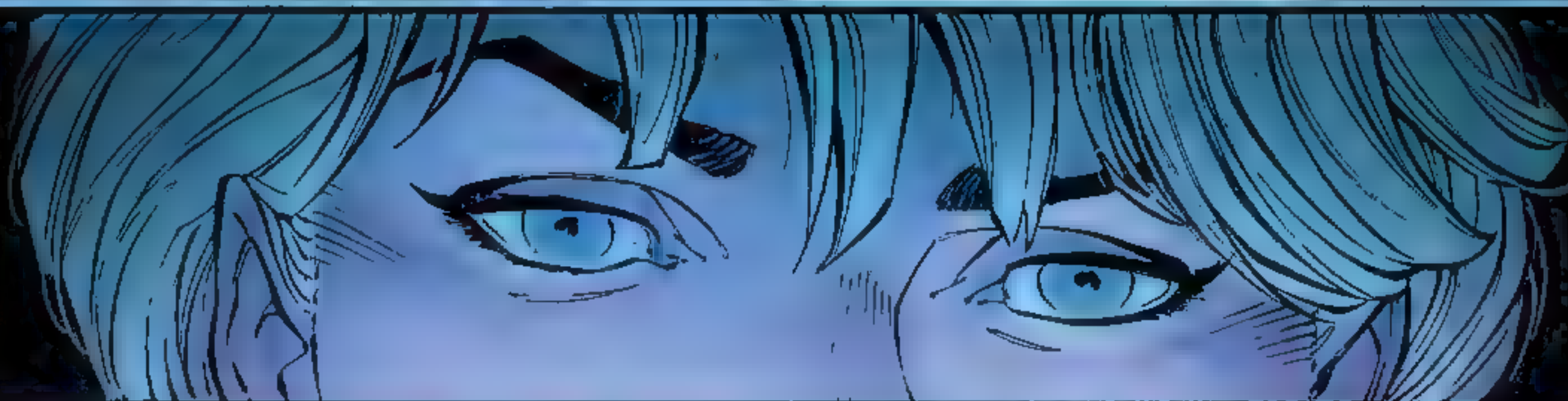
...HE OPERATES SOMEWHERE ALONG WHAT USED TO BE *BLOSSOM* RO--



I'M *FIRING* YOU, JIM.

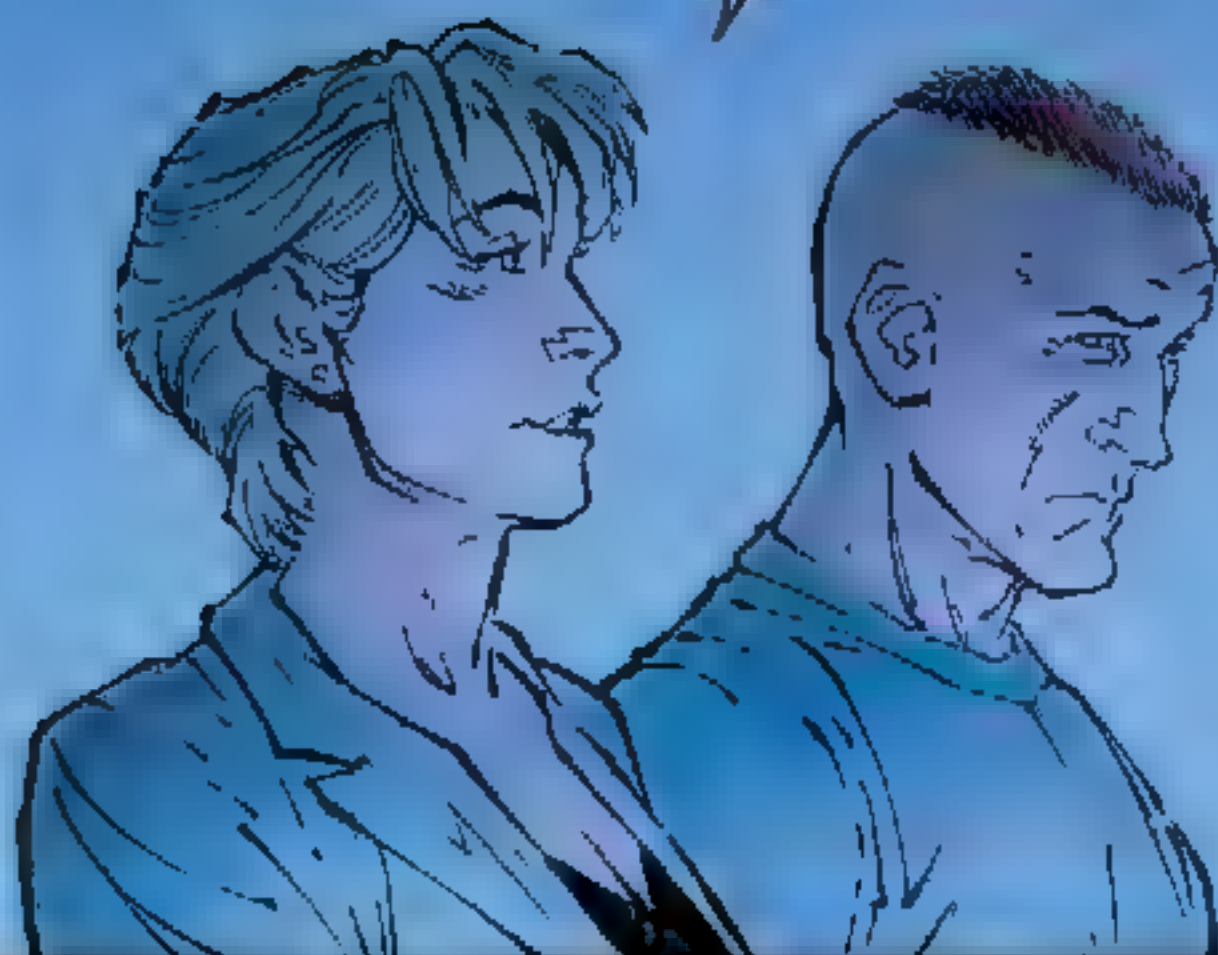
... WHAT? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

THE DEVIL PIG SCENE WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS. NOW, THERE'S A PRESENTATION TONIGHT, AND I WANT YOU TO *RESIGN*.



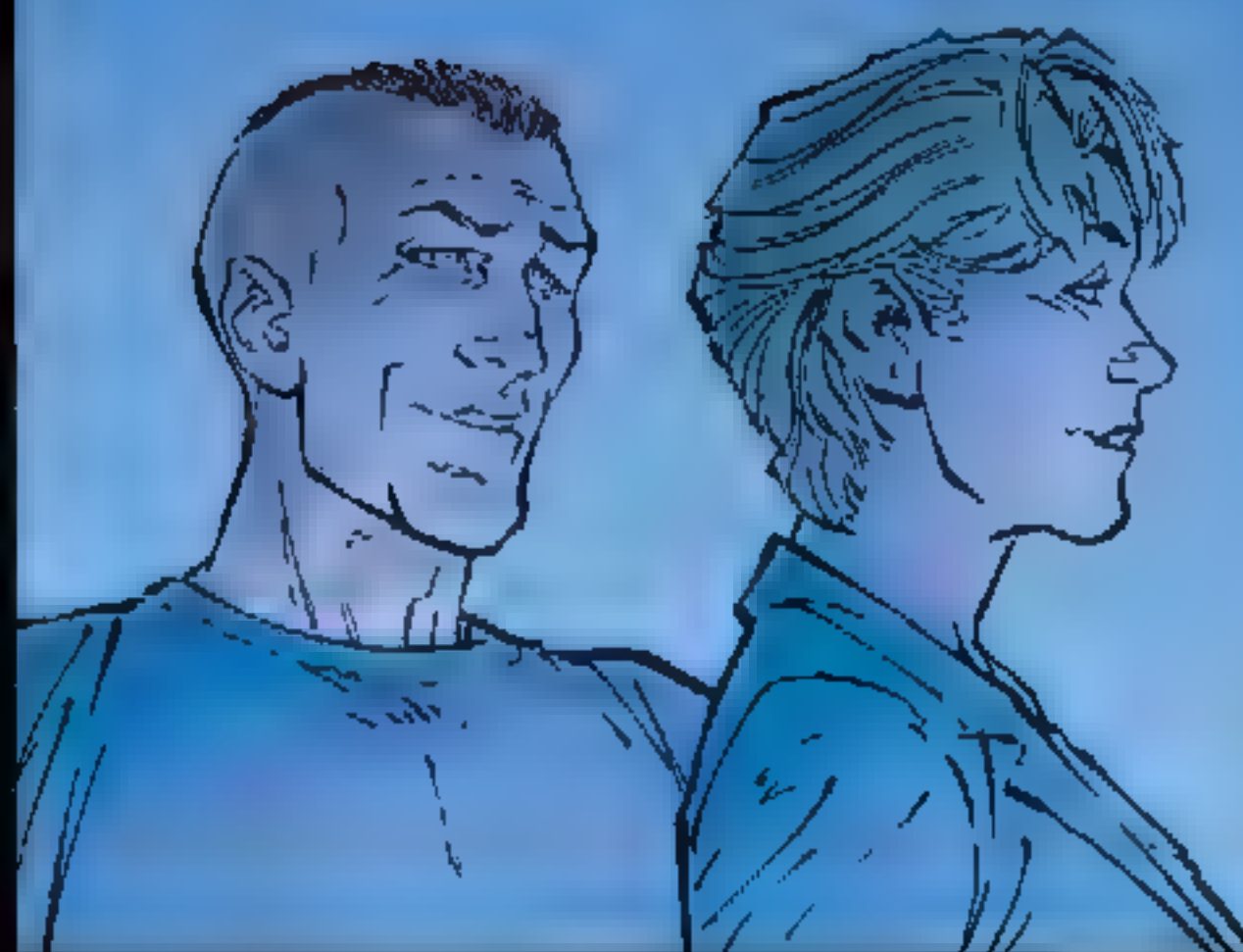
THE OLD BATMAN. HE WAS SOMETHING *SMALL*. A TINY, KNOWN ELEMENT. THIS, IT'S SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER. A BIGGER DREAM.

FOR IT TO WORK, IT NEEDS *POWER*. IT NEEDS SUPPORT. IT NEEDS A BIG MACHINE...



THERE'LL BE COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS THERE. POLICE. BUSINESS LEADERS. POLITICIANS. EVERYONE WHO MAKES THIS CITY RUN. IF YOU BELIEVE IN THIS, JIM, IN BATMAN AS SOMETHING THAT CAN GIVE PEOPLE *FAITH* IN THE CITY, IN THE SYSTEM, YOU'LL DO WHAT I'M ASKING.

YOU CAN HELP ME PICK THE NEXT ONE.

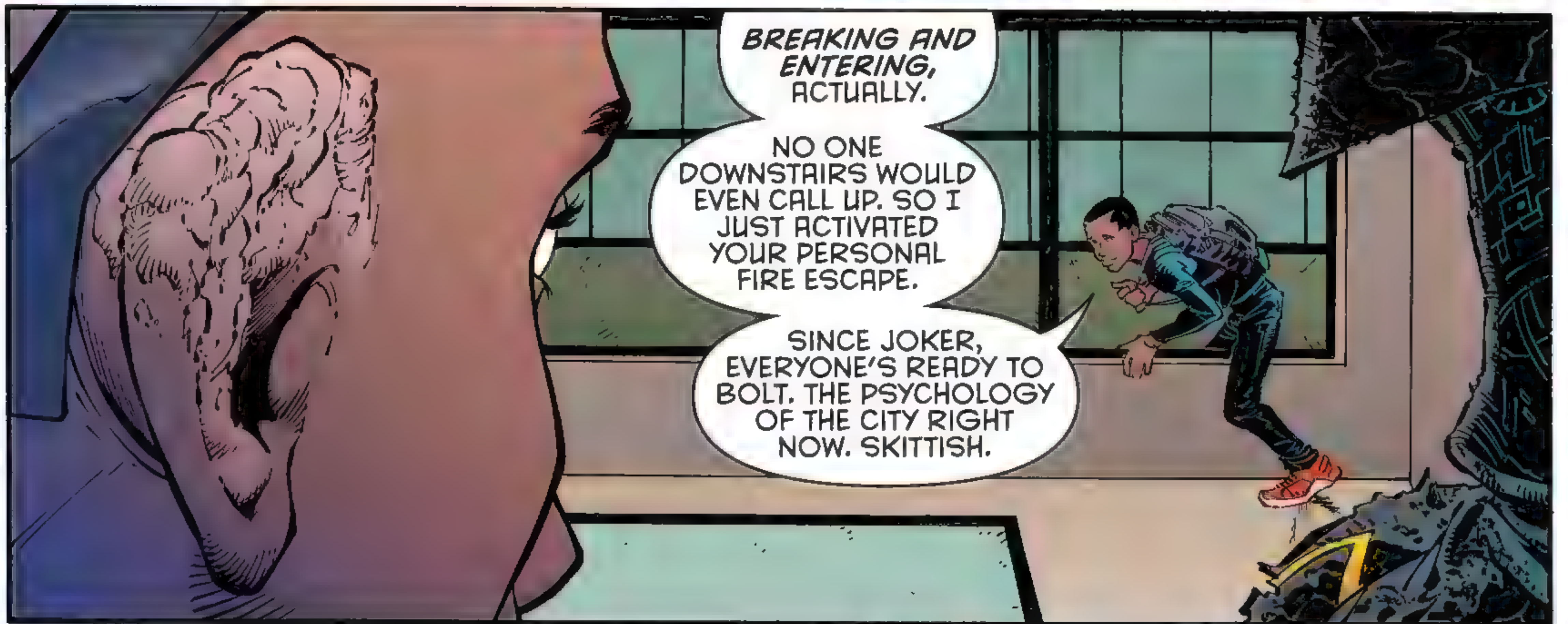
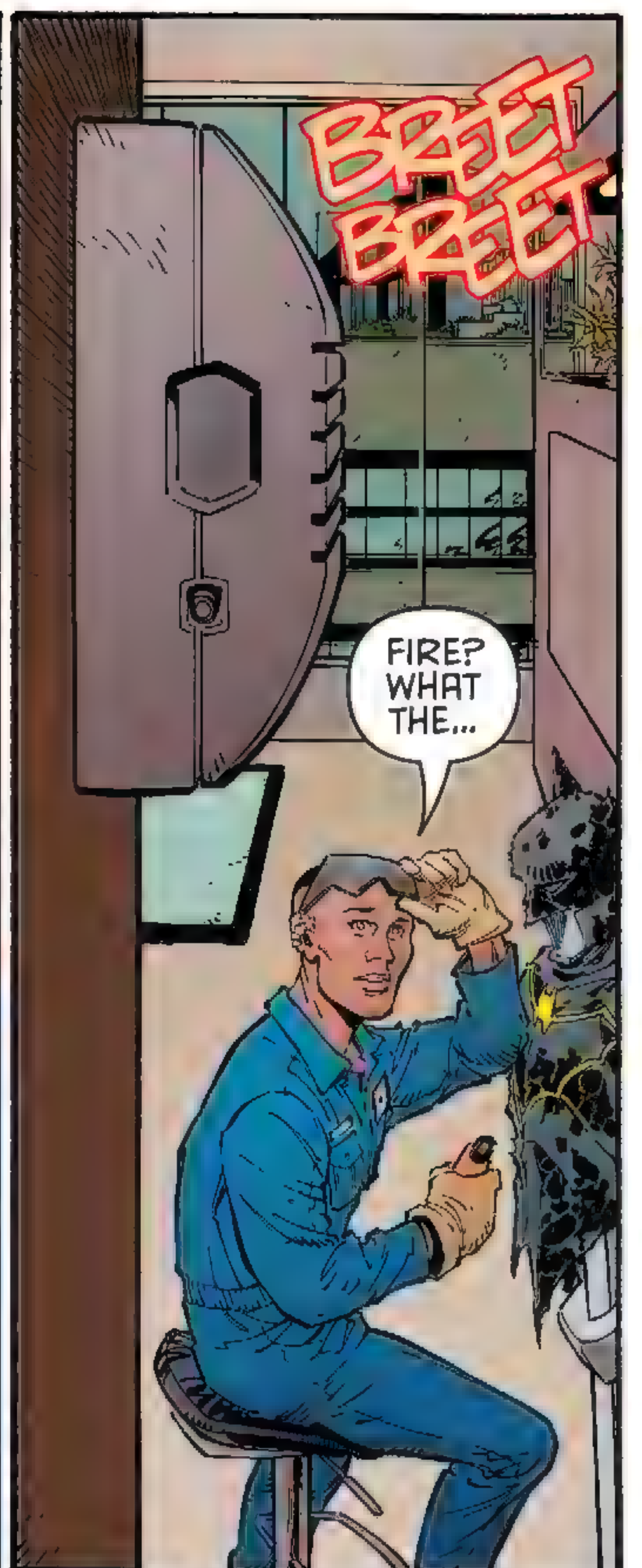
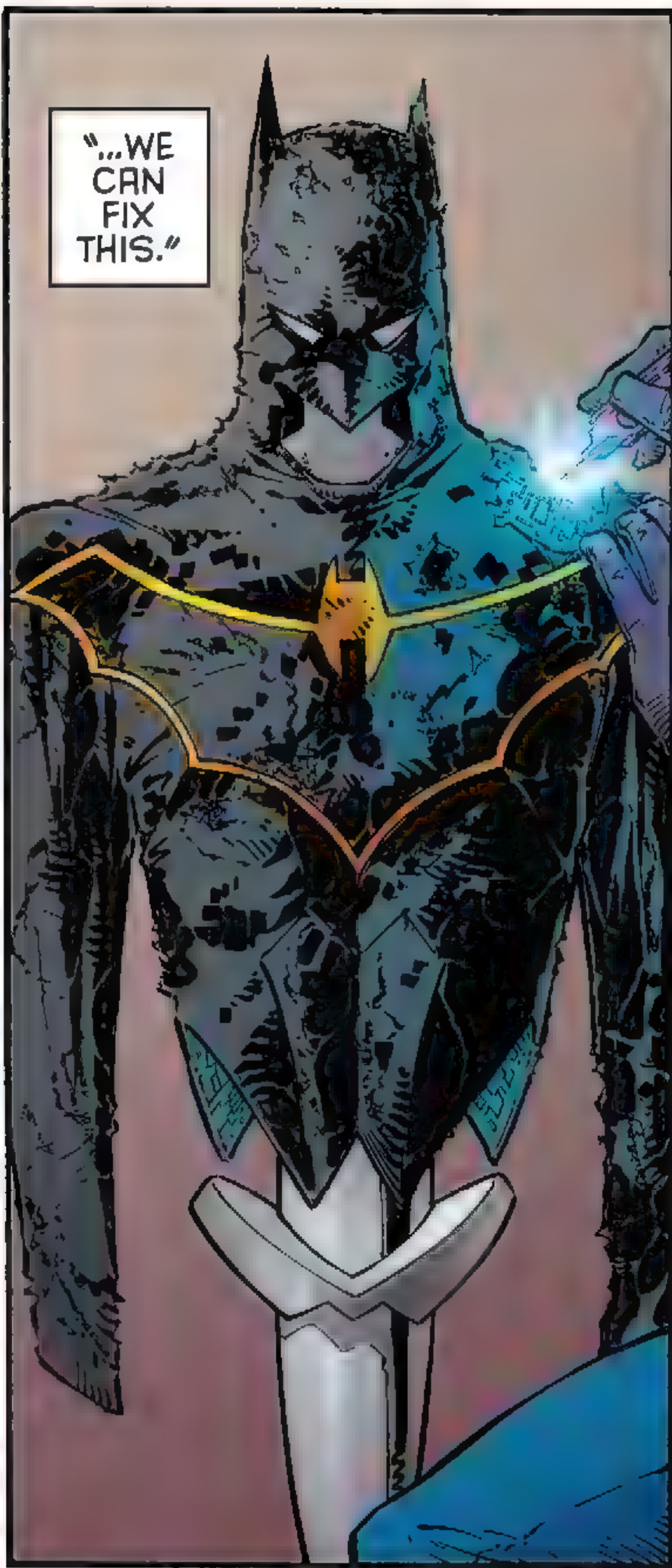


I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET THIS GUY, GERI.

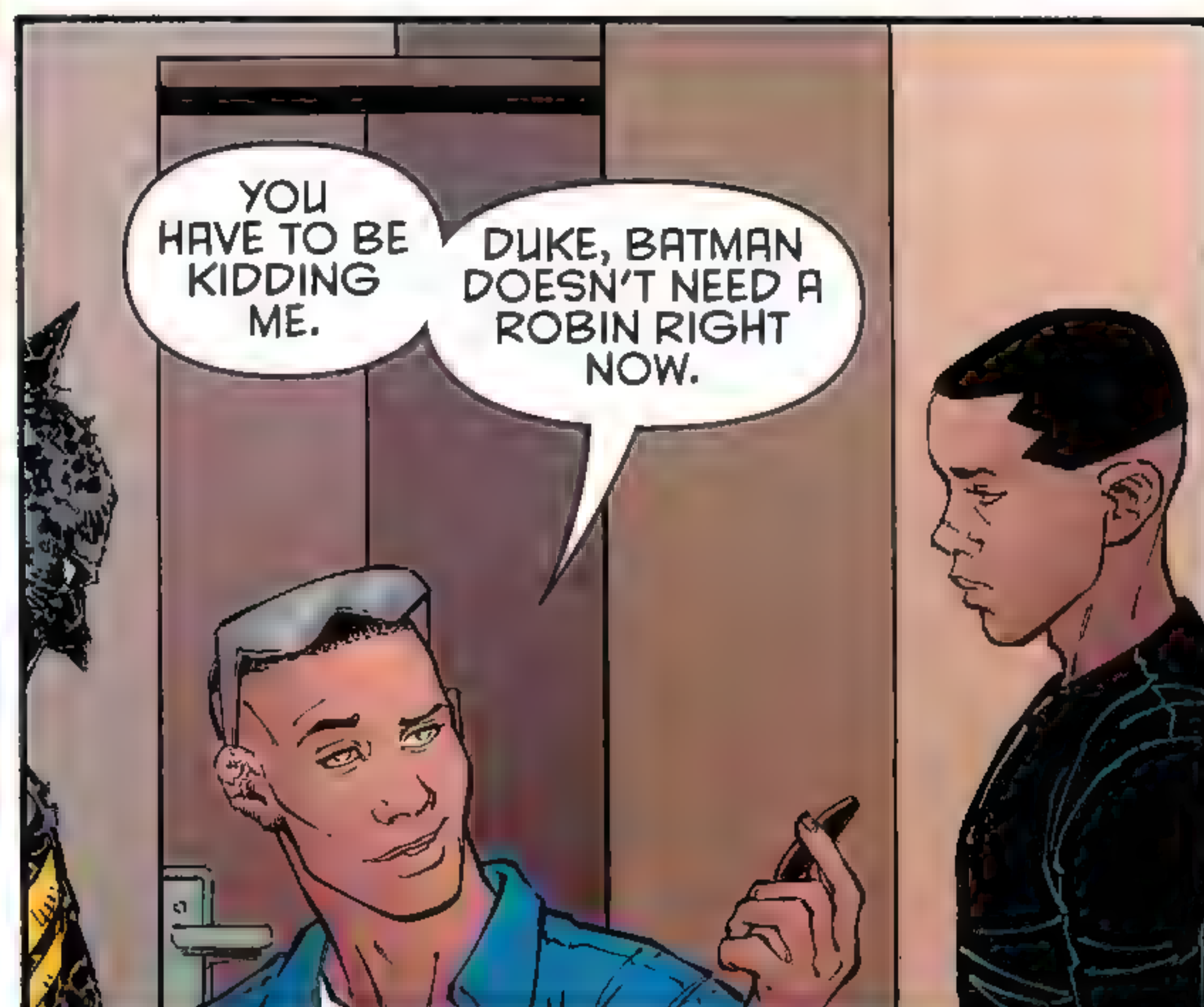
I KNOW. SO HELP ME KEEP THE LIGHTS ON, JIM. PLEASE...



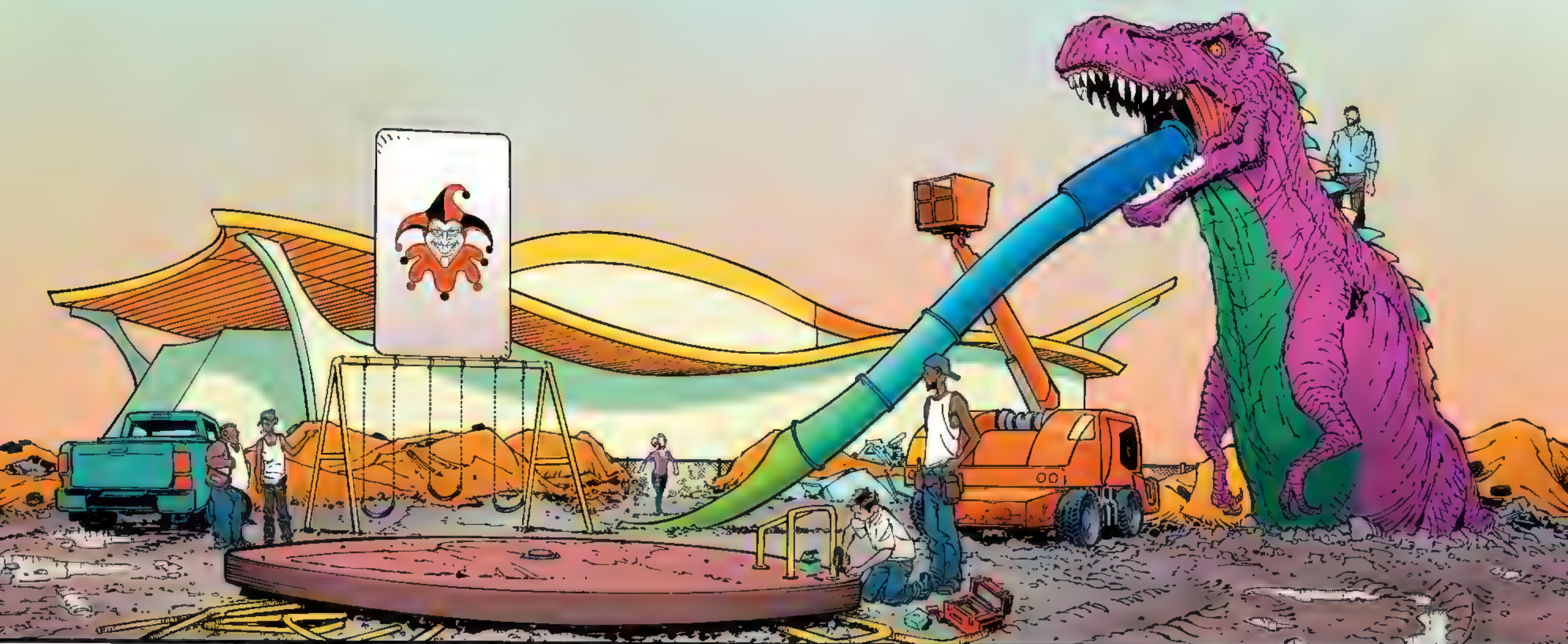












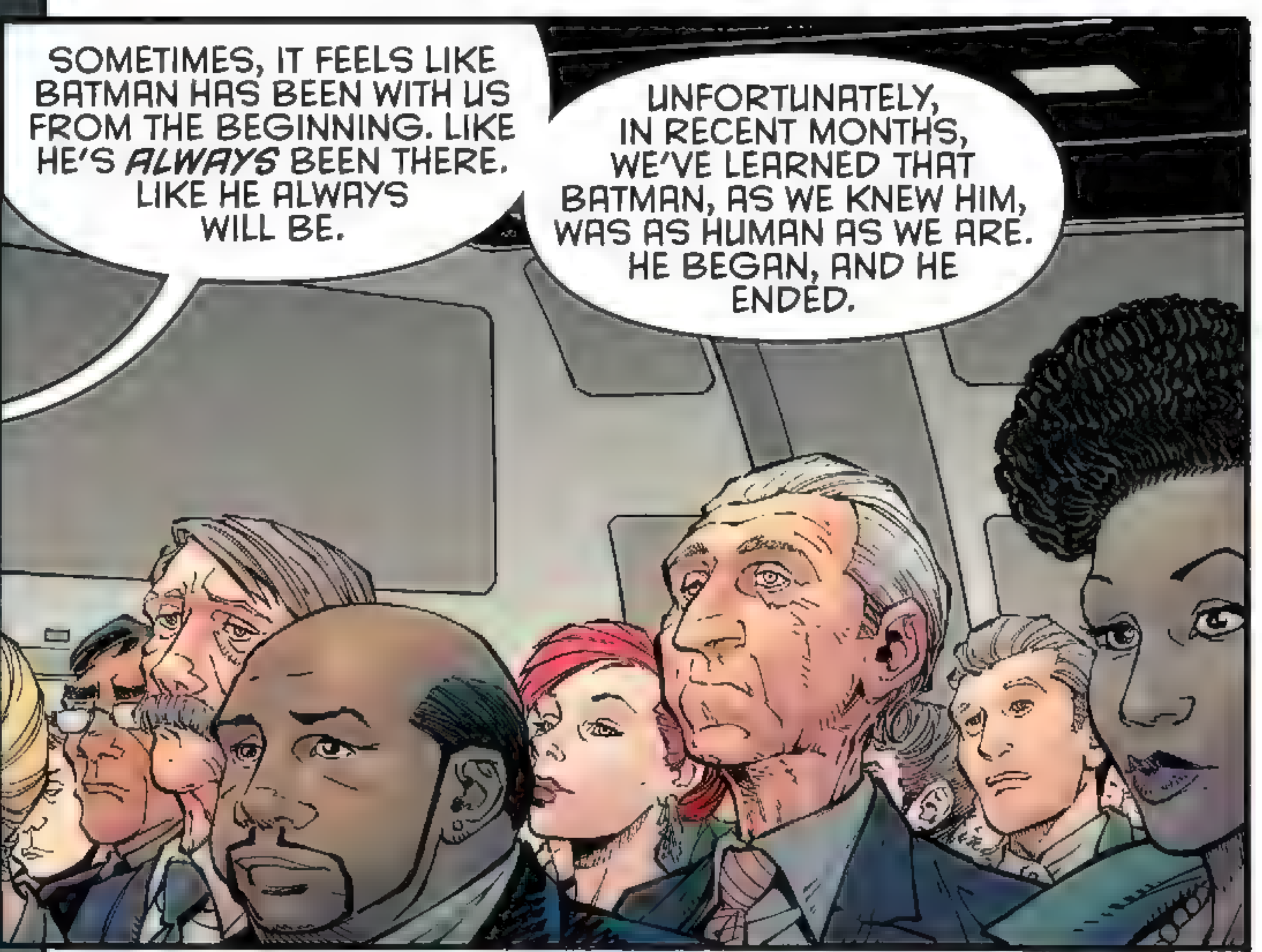




...AND THEN, THERE WAS BATMAN. AND THIS WAS GOOD.

HAHAHAHA

I'M KIDDING. BUT IN A WAY, I'M NOT.



SOMETIMES, IT FEELS LIKE BATMAN HAS BEEN WITH US FROM THE BEGINNING. LIKE HE'S *ALWAYS* BEEN THERE. LIKE HE ALWAYS WILL BE.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN RECENT MONTHS, WE'VE LEARNED THAT BATMAN, AS WE KNEW HIM, WAS AS HUMAN AS WE ARE. HE BEGAN, AND HE ENDED.



BUT THIS PROGRAM, IT'S ABOUT MAKING BATMAN LAST *BEYOND* ANY ONE MAN. SO THAT HE CAN ALWAYS BE THERE FOR US. SO THAT HE CAN BE A PART OF THIS GREAT CITY.



SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY?

I DON'T KNOW.

YOU WANT MY ADVICE?



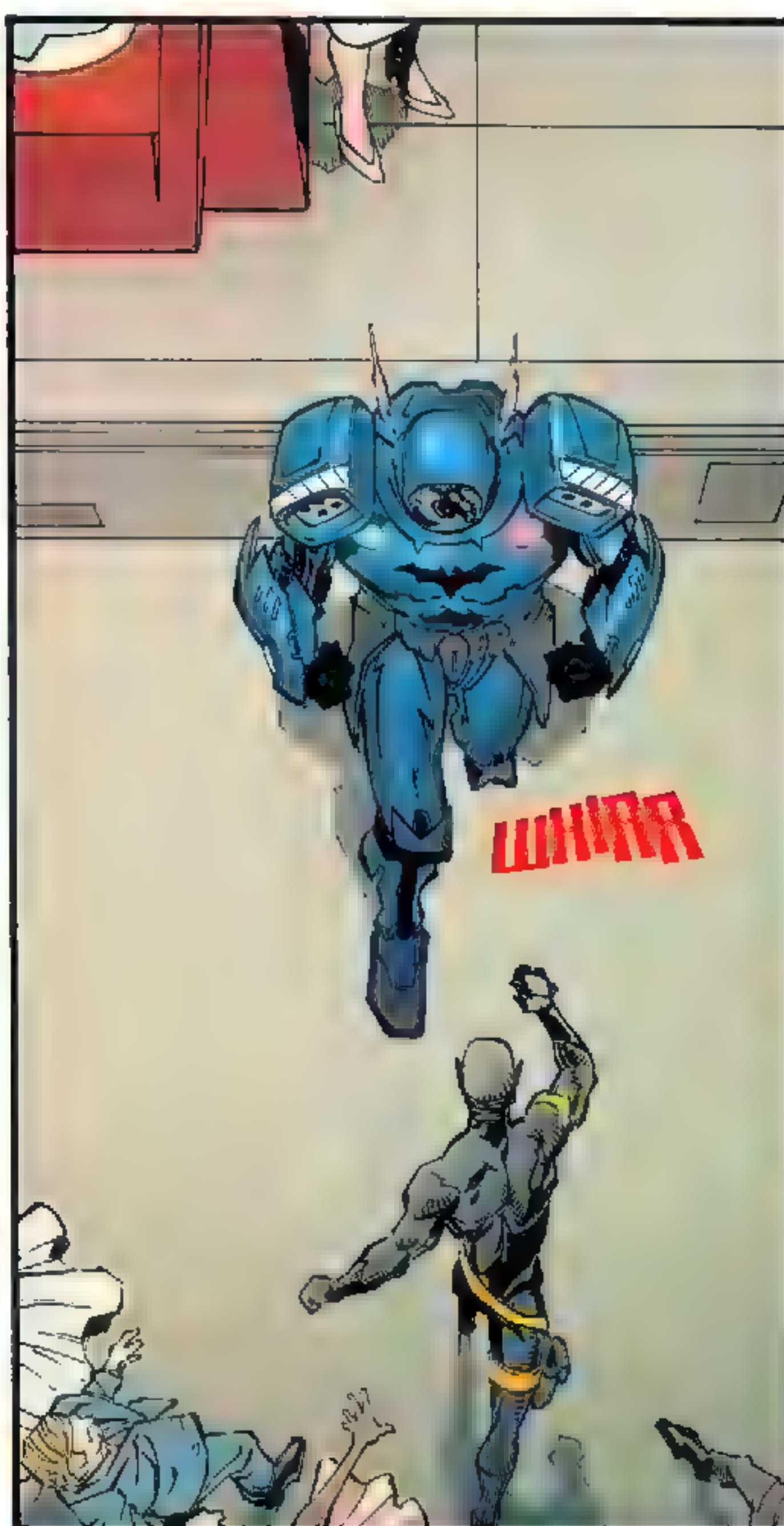
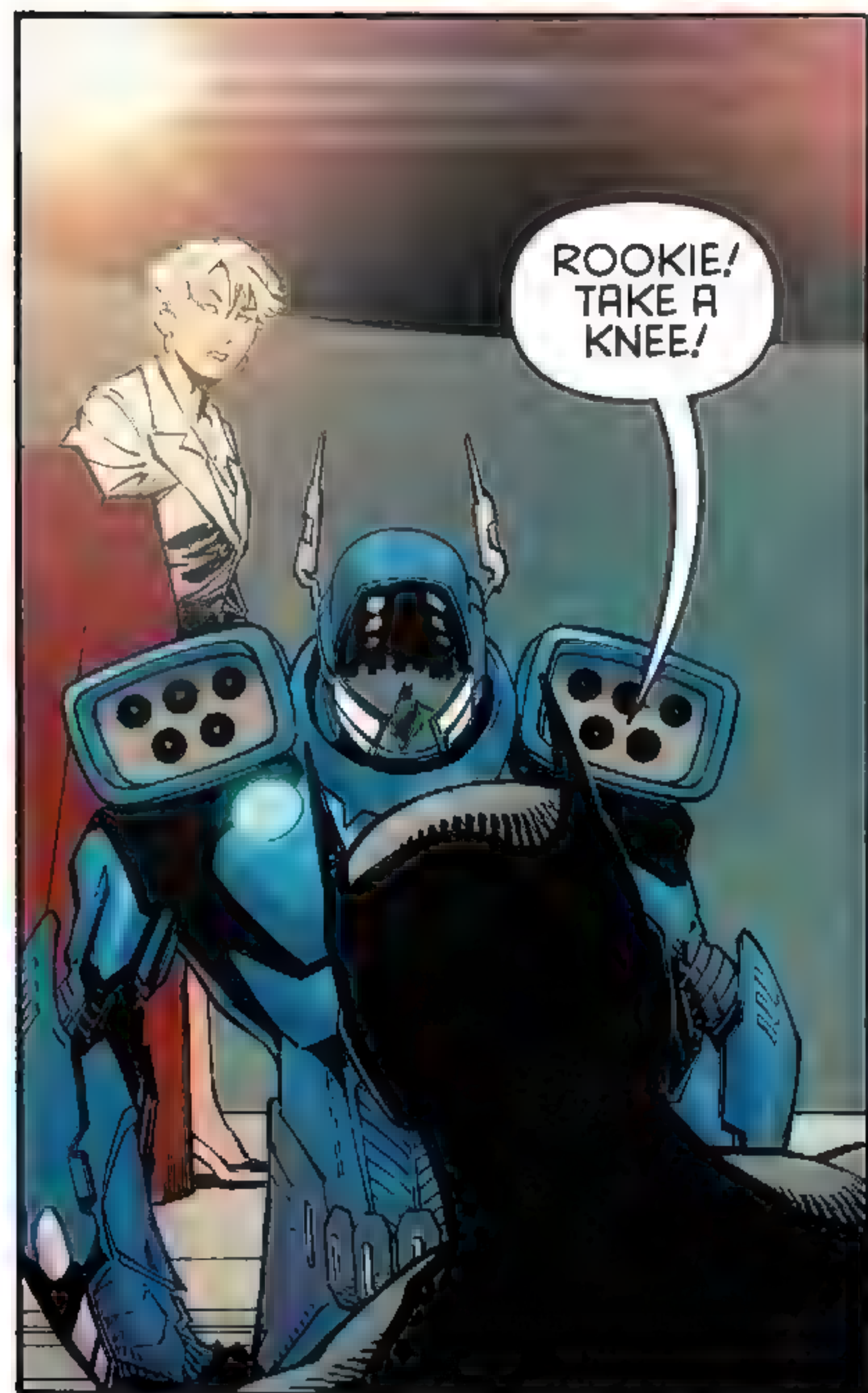
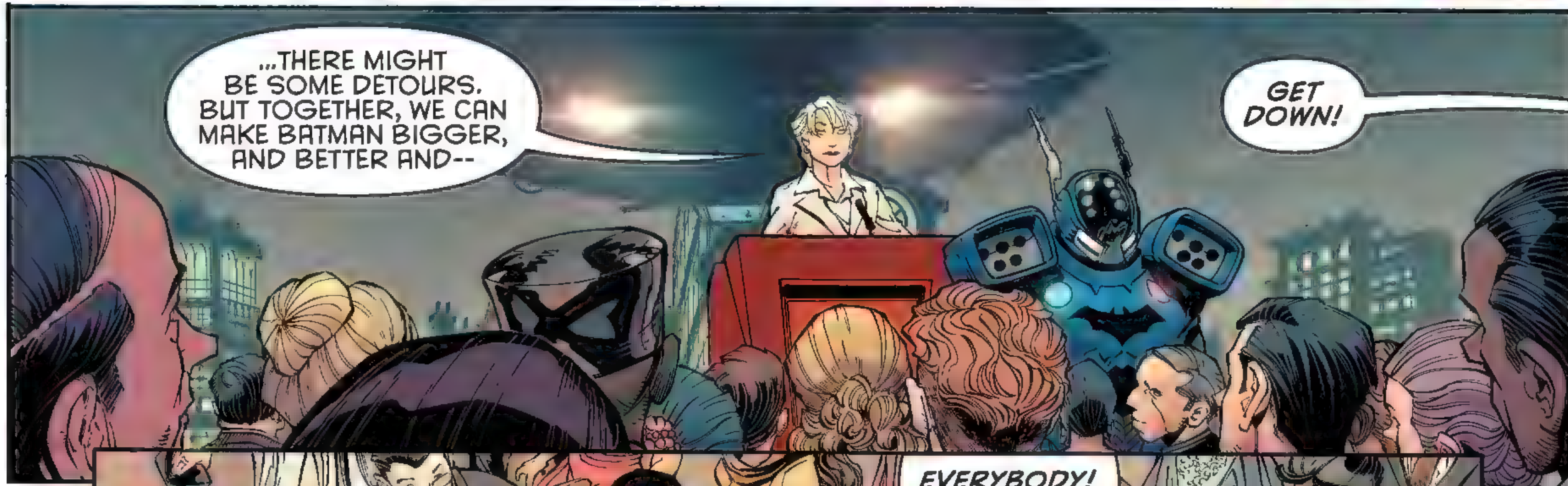
FIGHT FOR IT.

...FIGHT FOR IT? GERI WOULD HAVE ME ARRESTED.

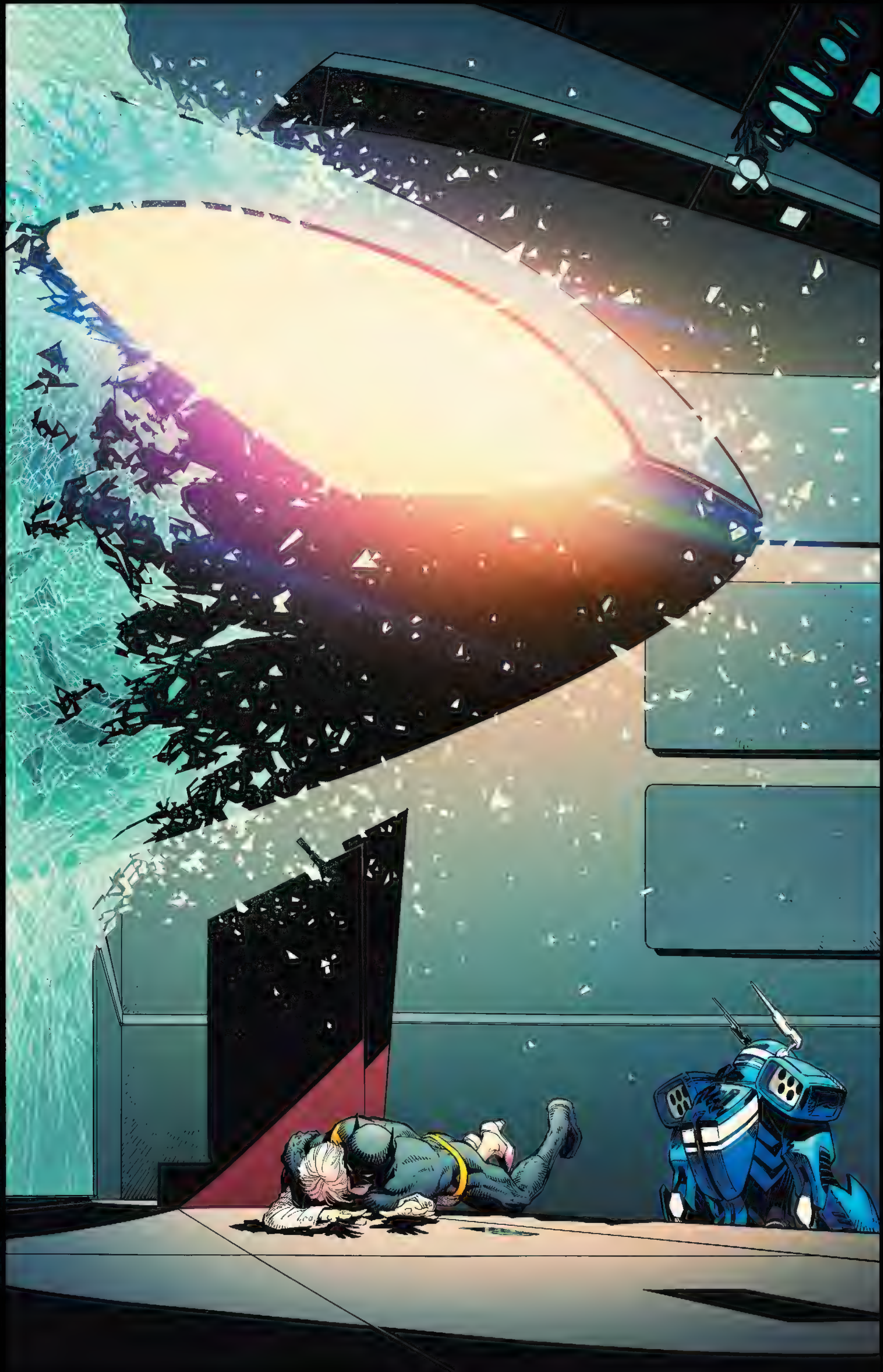
SHE MIGHT. EITHER WAY, THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE...THEY'RE THE BOSS, RIGHT?

SO GO OUT THERE AND SHOW THEM WHO'S BATMAN.

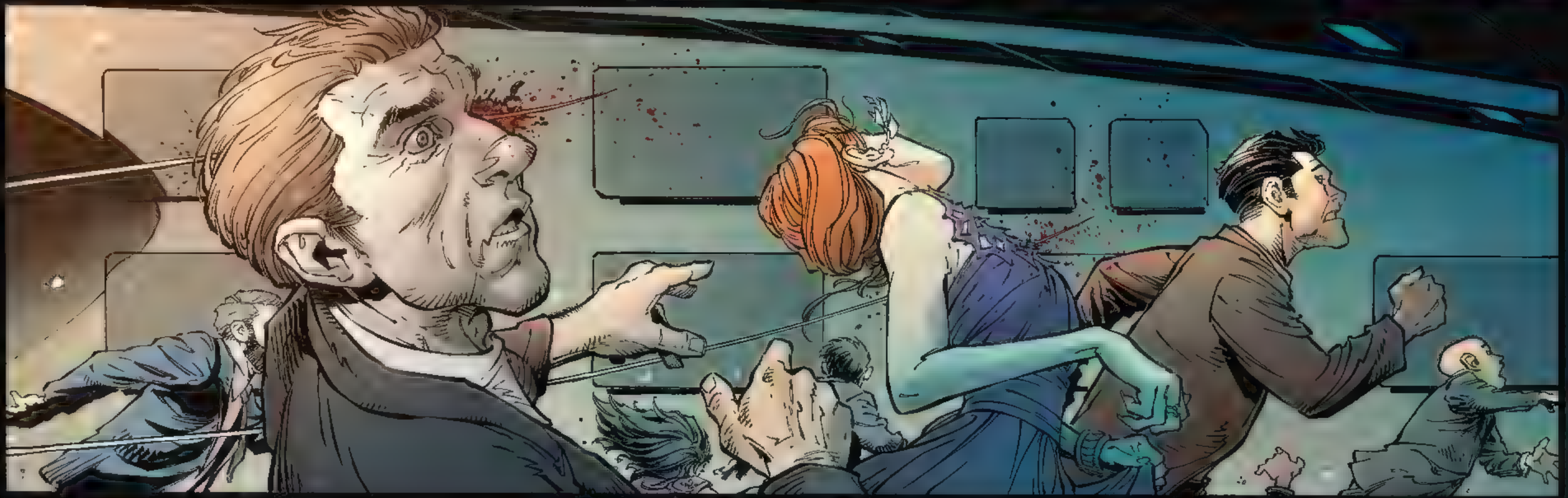










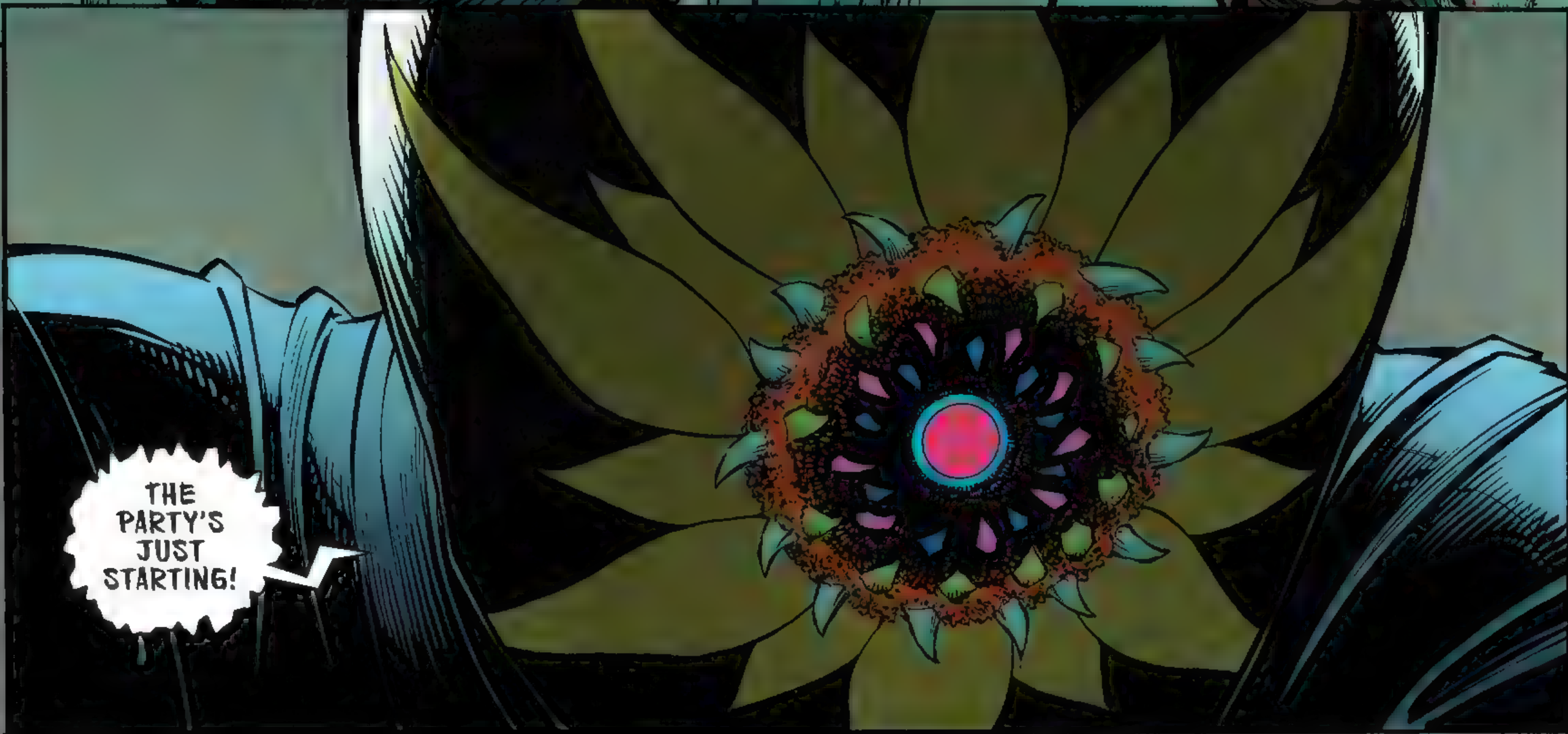


WAIT, WAIT,  
WAIT! HOLD ON A  
MINUTE!





WHERE  
ARE YOU ALL  
GOING?



THE  
PARTY'S  
JUST  
STARTING!





# VARIANT COVER GALLERY

**BATMAN #41**  
JOKER 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
VARIANT BY SEAN MURPHY  
& MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

**BATMAN #42**  
*TEEN TITANS GO!* VARIANT BY  
DAN HIPP

**BATMAN #43**  
BOMBSHELLS VARIANT BY  
ANT LUCIA

**BATMAN #44**  
GREEN LANTERN 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
VARIANT BY TONY S. DANIEL  
& TOMEU MOREY

**BATMAN #45**  
MONSTER VARIANT BY  
ANDY KUBERT  
& BRAD ANDERSON

**BATMAN #43**  
LA MOLE COMIC CON  
VARIANT BY  
GREG CAPULLO

**BATMAN #41**  
SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON  
VARIANT BY  
GREG CAPULLO

**BATMAN #44**  
BALTIMORE COMIC-CON  
VARIANT BY  
JOCK













**BRUCE WAYNE**



**DETECTIVE  
AGENCY**





TONY  
DANIEL 15







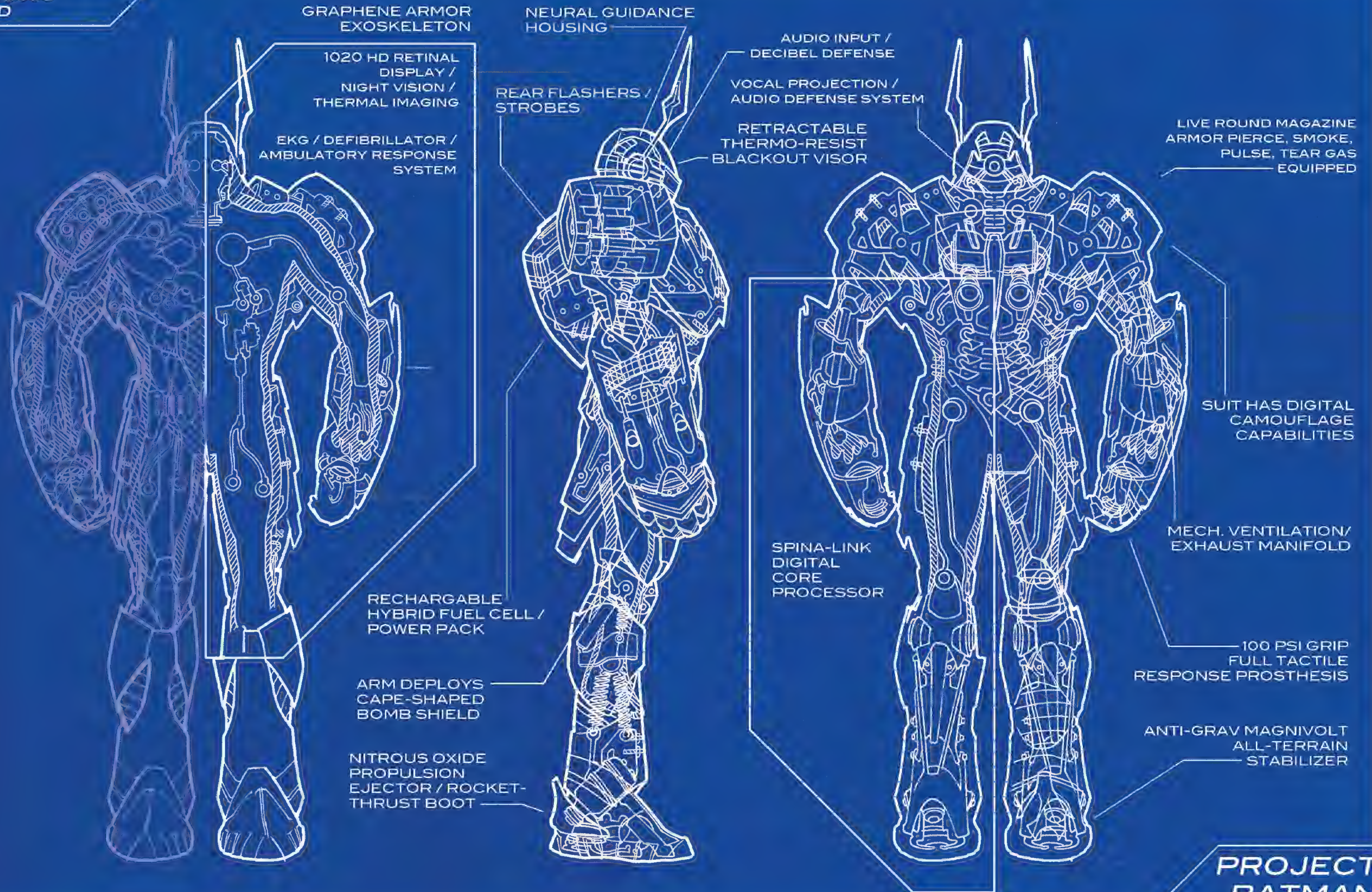




# POWERS CORP.

MODEL B-101-8000

CLIENT: GCPD



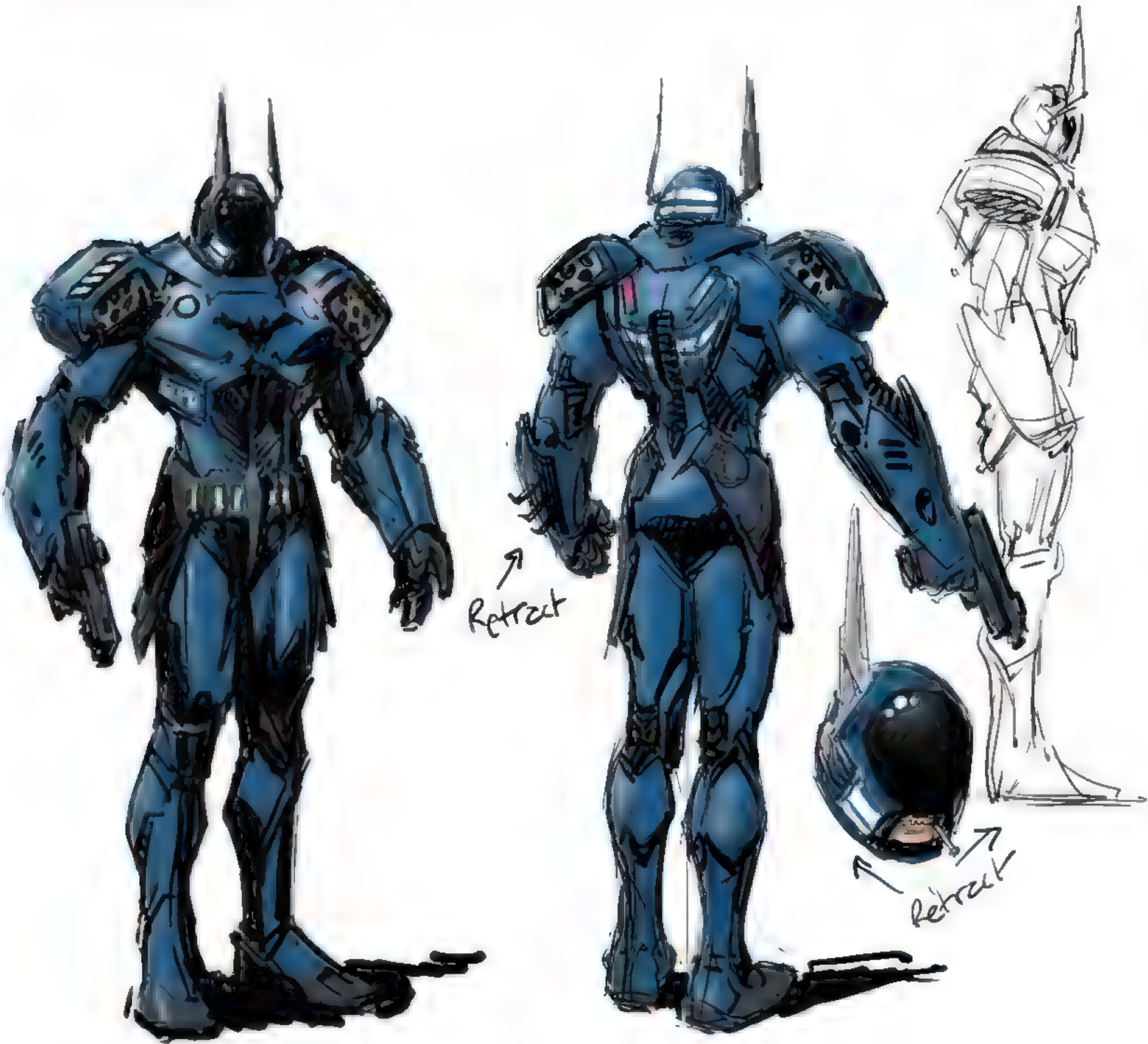
PROJECT  
BATMAN







BATMAN CHARACTER SKETCHES BY  
GREG CAPULLO

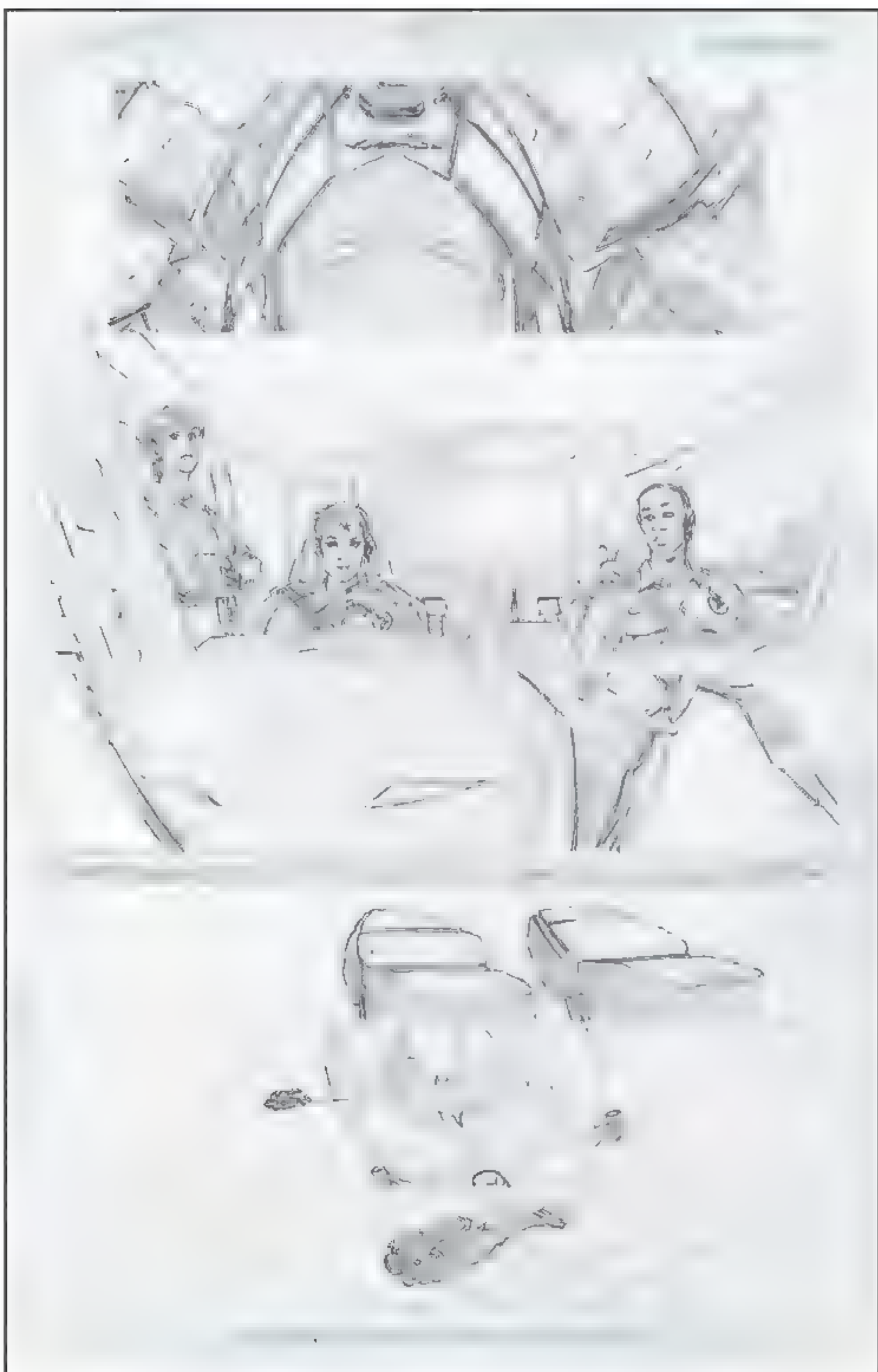
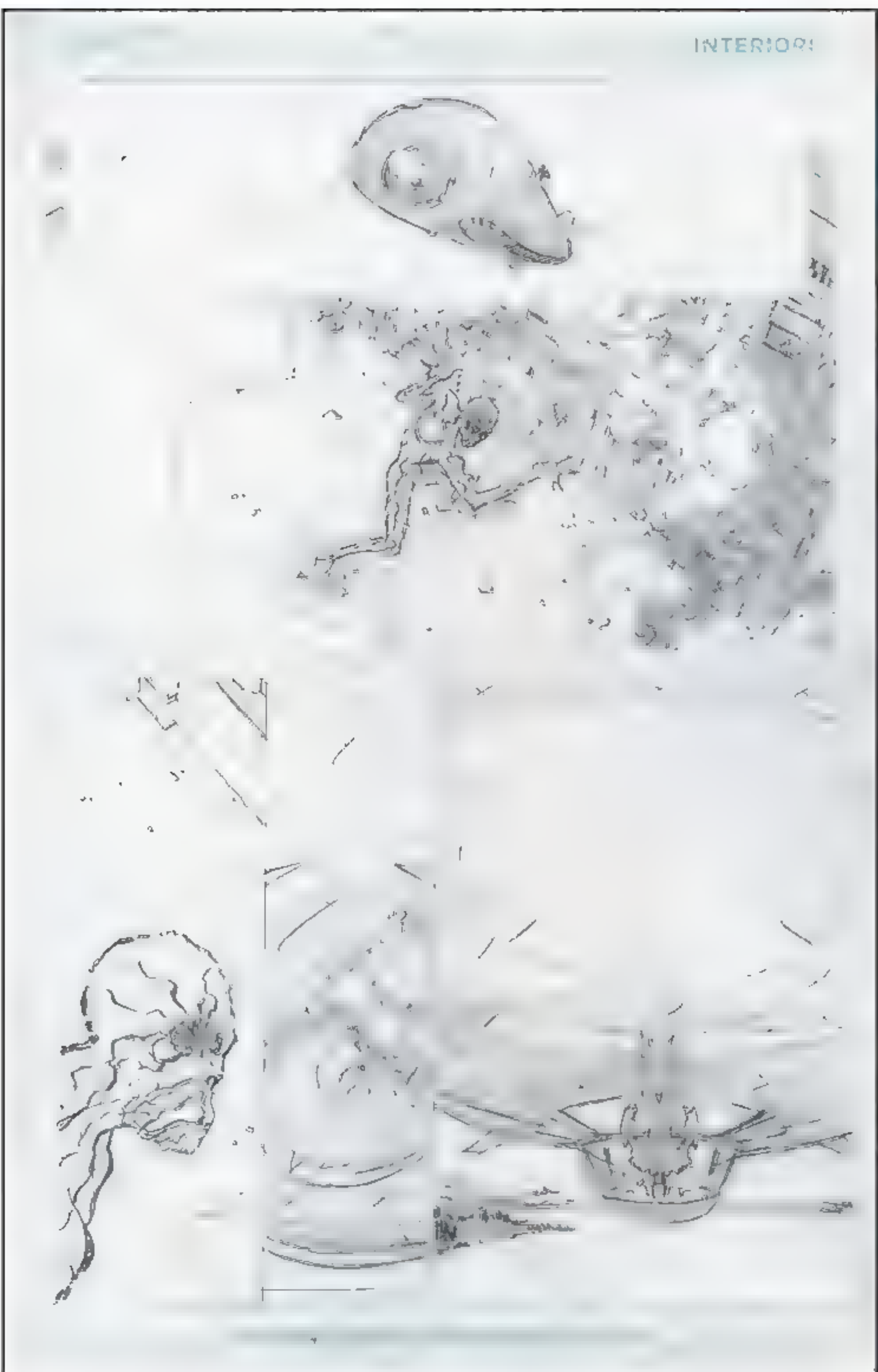
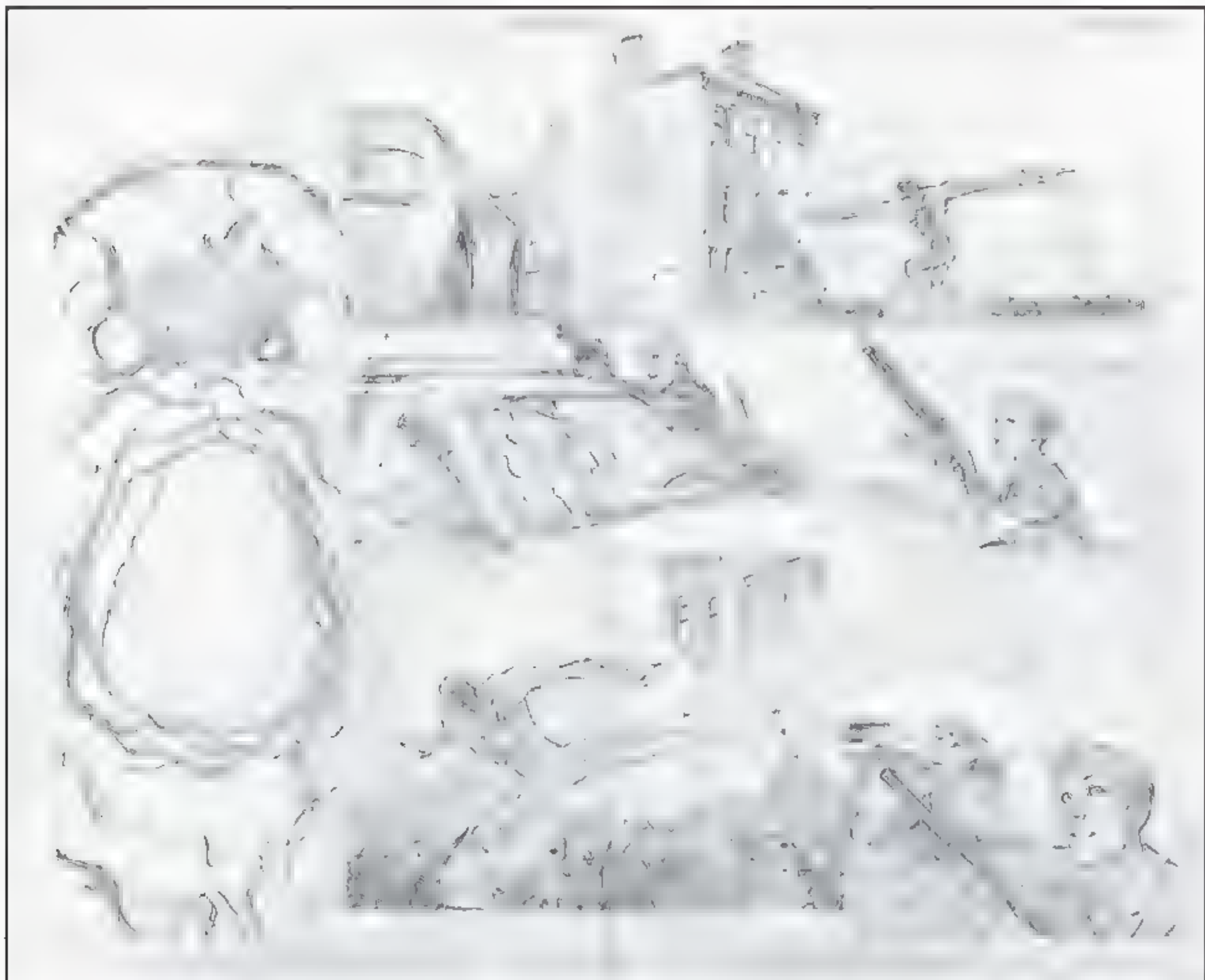




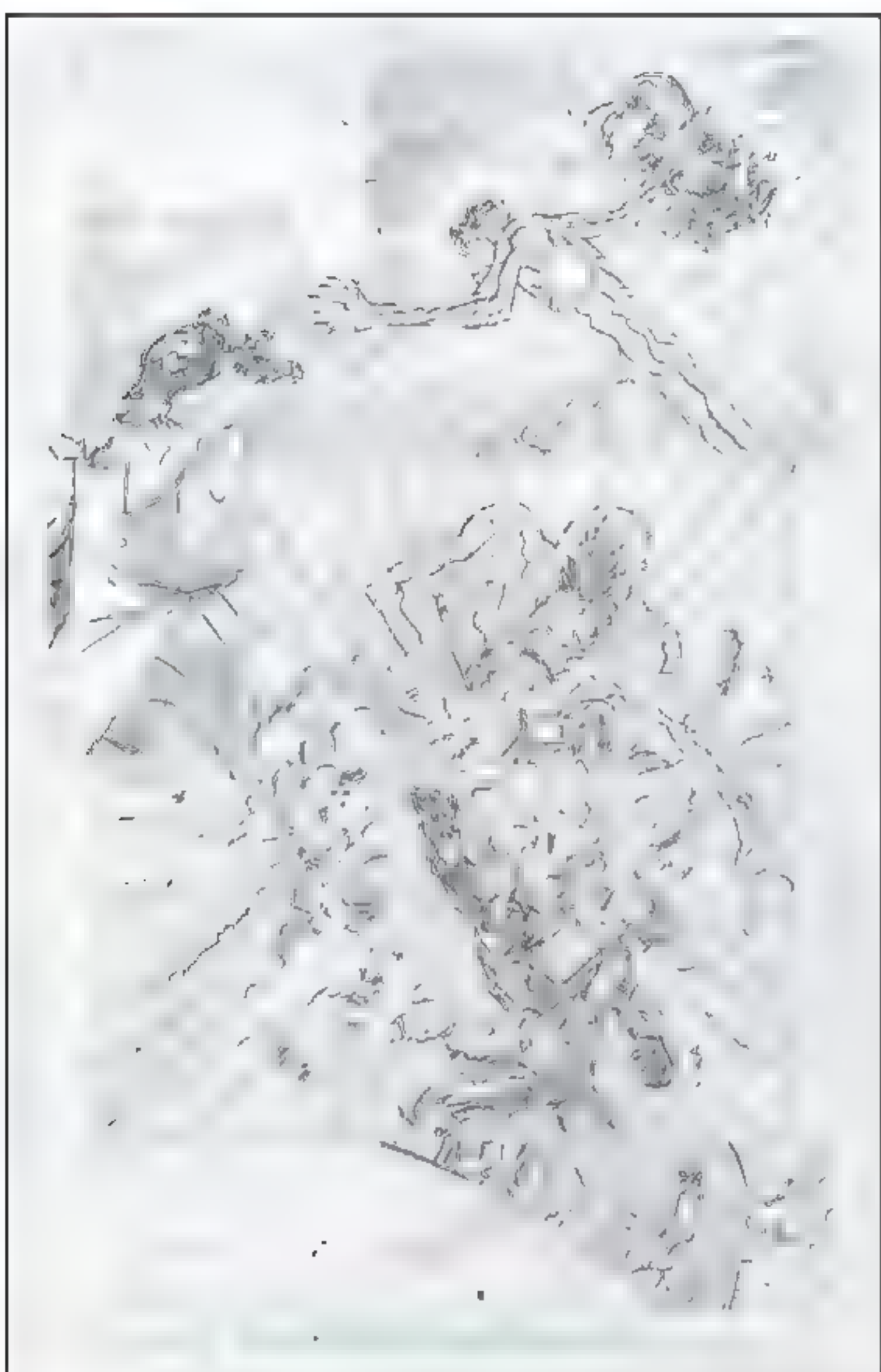
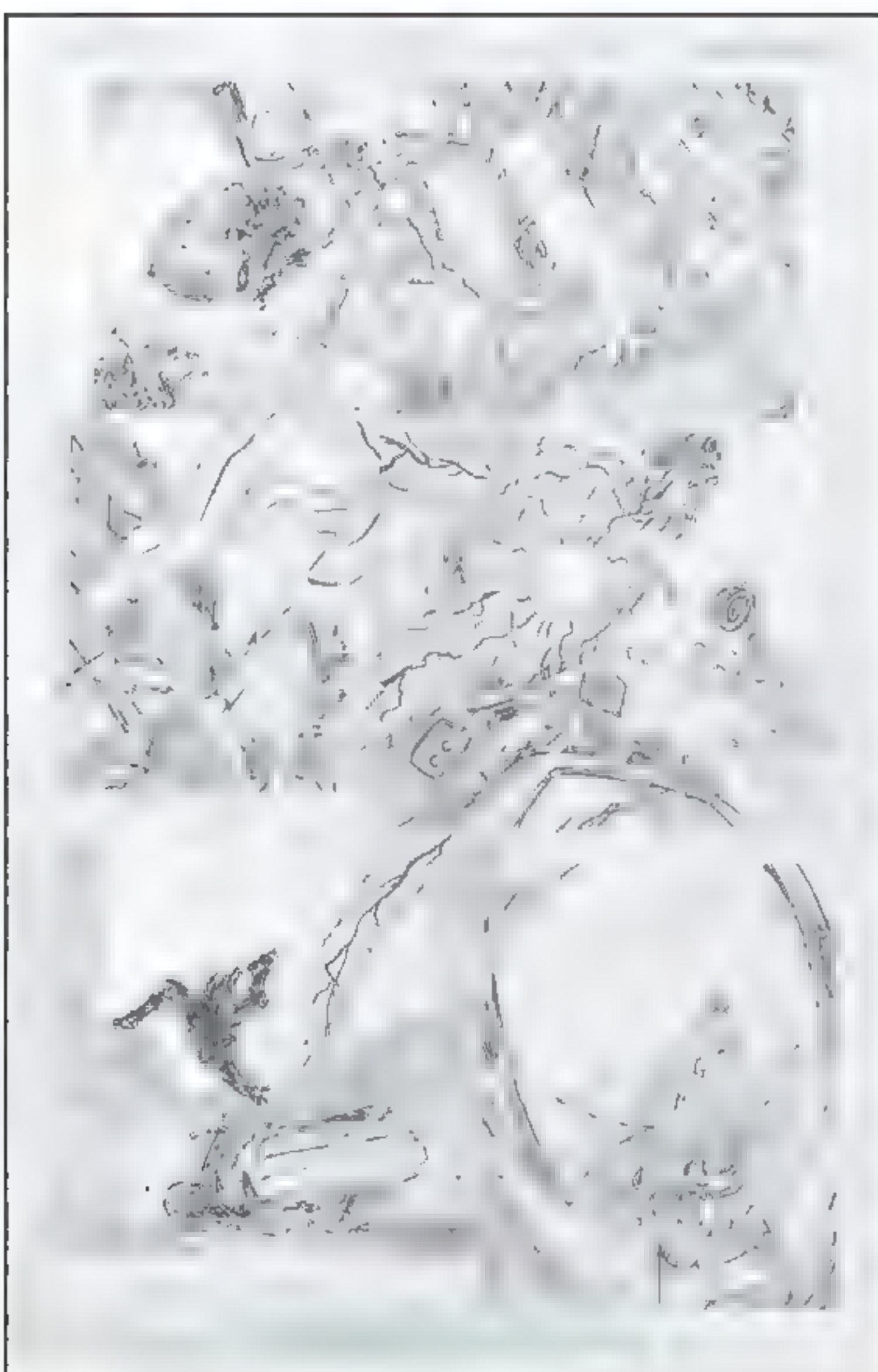
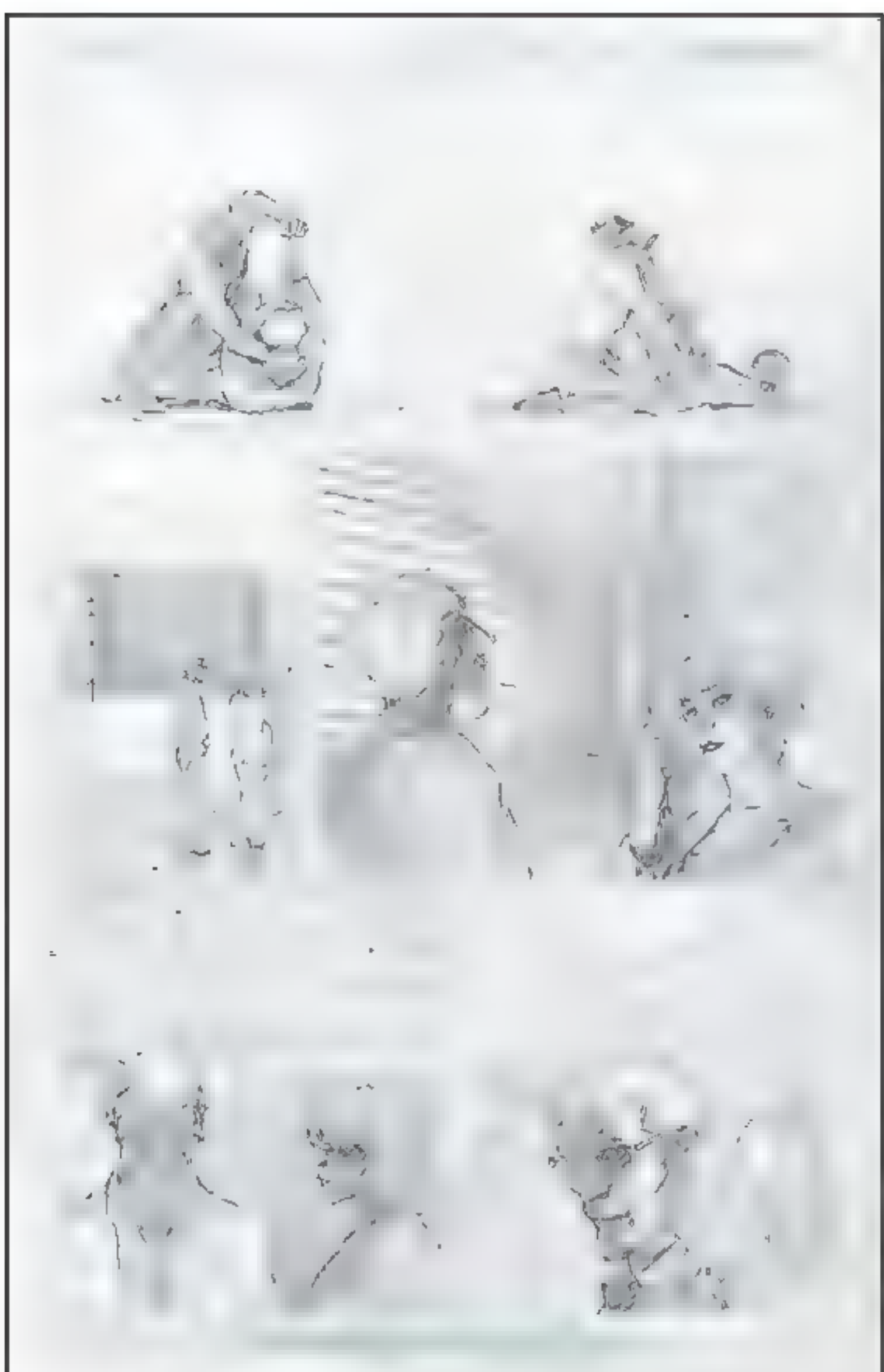
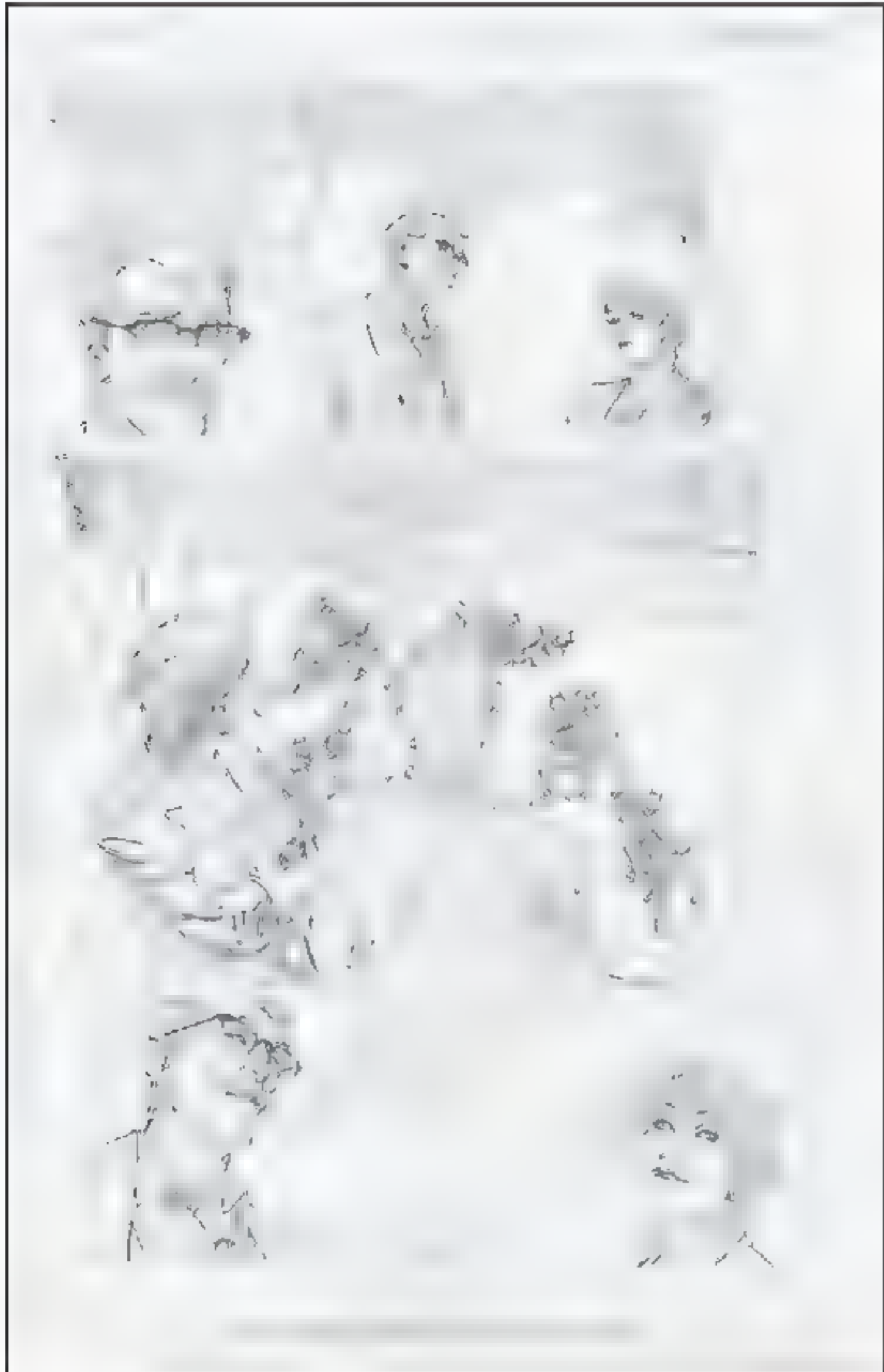
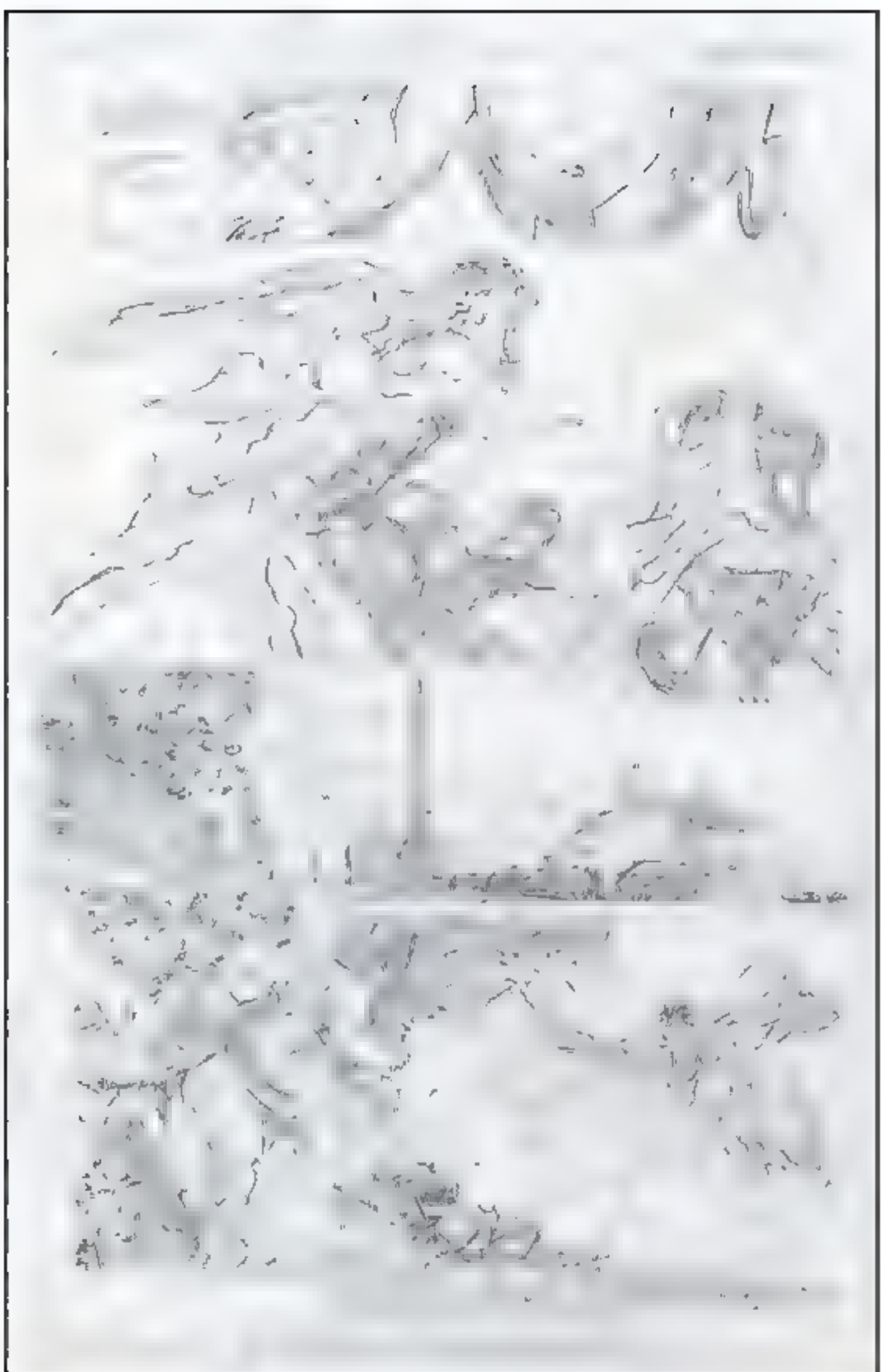
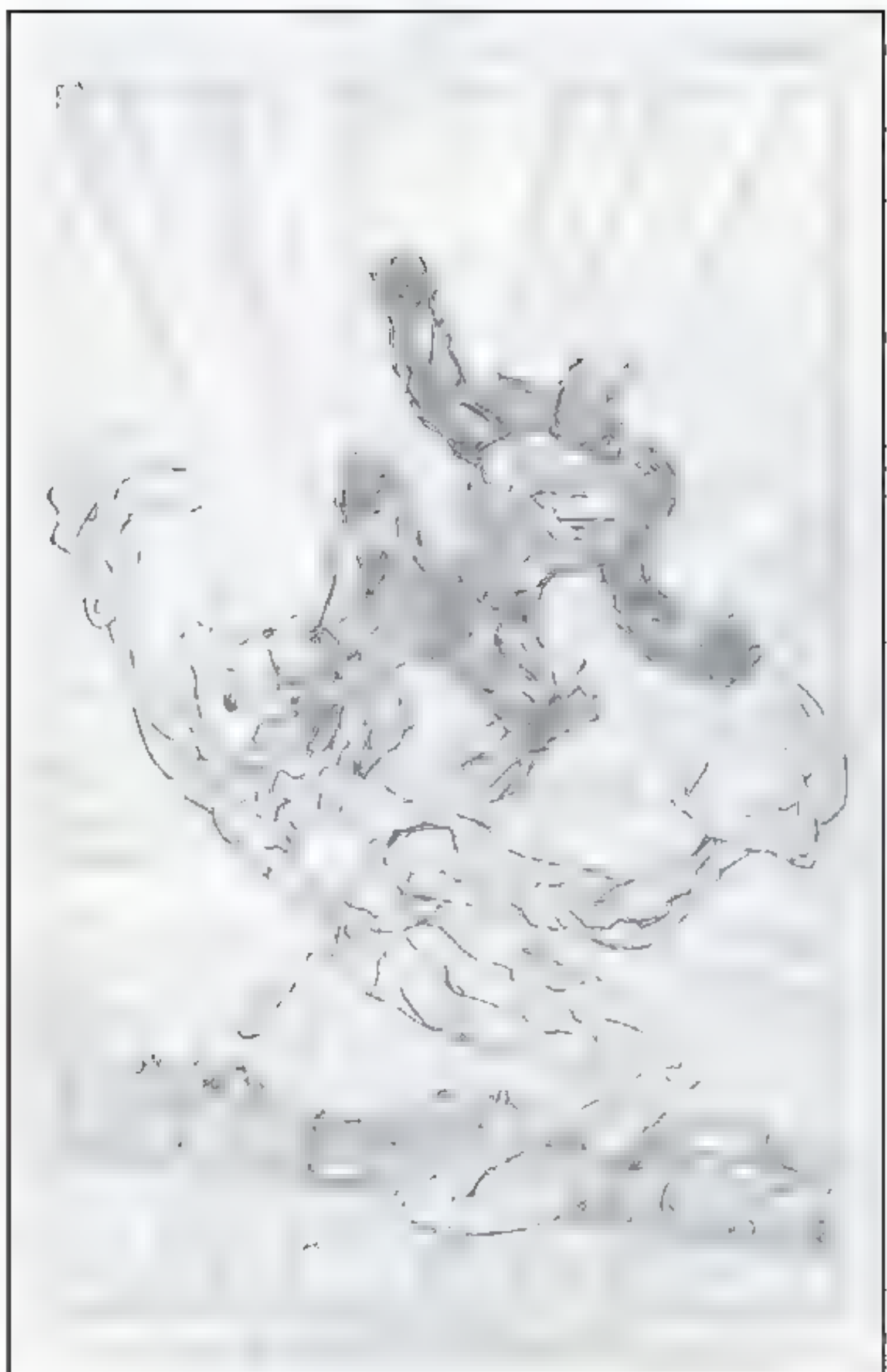
BATMAN #41 COVER & INTERIOR PENCIL ART BY  
GREG CAPULLO



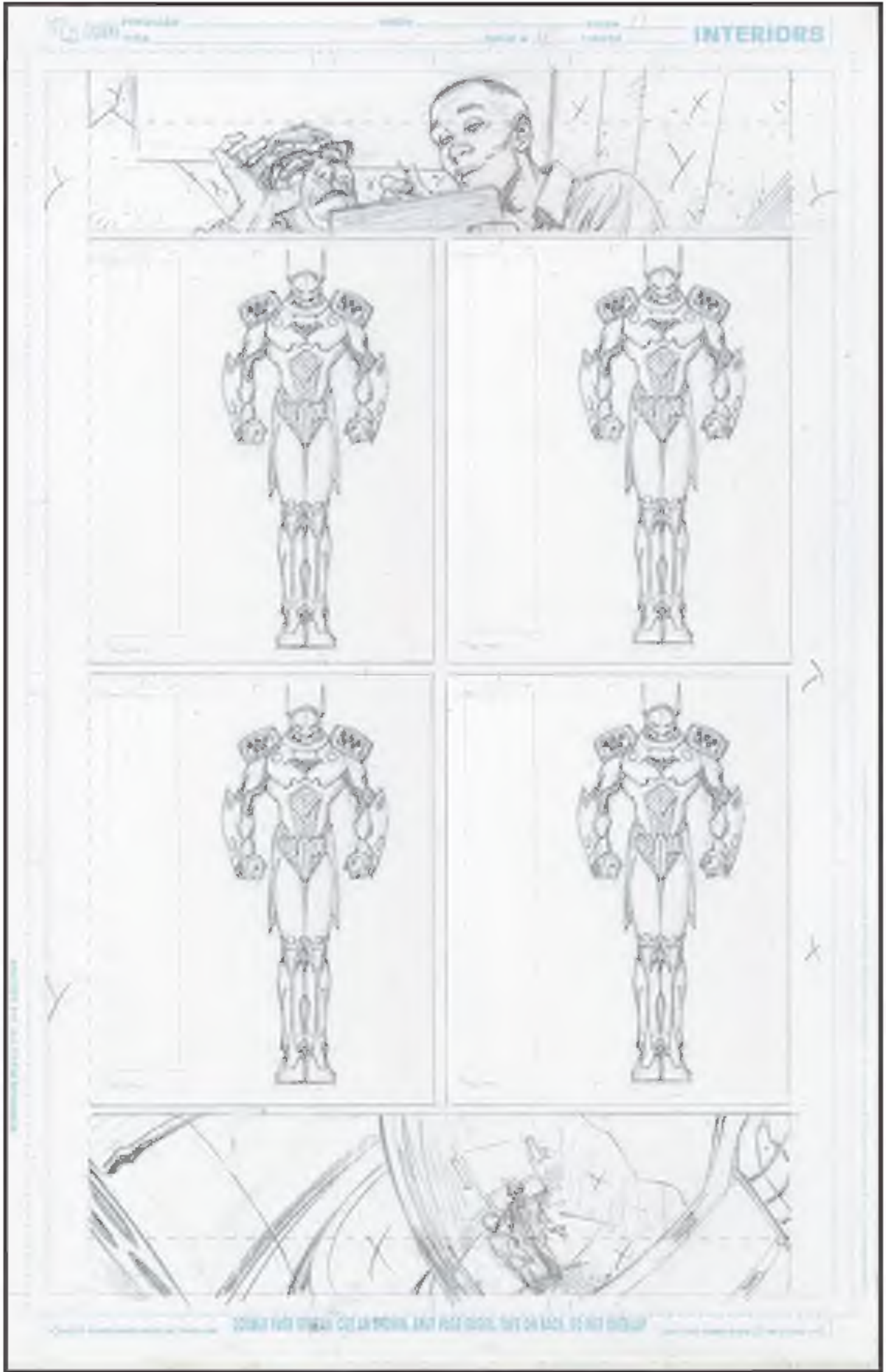


















# COMMISSIONER GORDON IS THE NEW BATMAN!

"...a great jumping-on point...from one of the best creative teams [BATMAN's] ever had."

NERDIST

"This is the Snyder and Capullo show. This is the work of two men at the top of their games. They have never been more confident in their storytelling."

NEW YORK POST

"Batman's new direction gets off to a great start with some strong characterization and inventive art."

IGN

"Why is Gotham City crumbling, you ask? Well, that's mostly due to BATMAN writer Scott Snyder putting the city through the wringer time and time again in consistently excellent stories like COURT OF OWLS, DEATH OF THE FAMILY and now ENDGAME."

NERDIST

"Scott Snyder has reinvented Batman, deepening and humanizing the Dark Knight's myth like no one since Frank Miller in the 1980s."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Following the disappearance and presumed death of Batman, former police commissioner Jim Gordon has been called to carry on the Dark Knight's legacy and become his successor.

But while the name and what it stands for remain the same, this new Batman is far from just a copy of the original. Patrolling the city in a gargantuan high-tech Batsuit, Gordon is no shadowy vigilante. He has the full cooperation of the GCPD and the mayor, plus a multimillion-dollar budget from Powers International.

But will an expensive suit be enough to stop the mysterious, weed-like Mr. Bloom before his deadly plans for the city take root?

The #1 *New York Times* best-selling all-star creative team of **SCOTT SNYDER**, **GREG CAPULLO**, **DANNY MIKI** and **FCO PLASCENCIA** introduce an all-new Dark Knight in **BATMAN VOL. 8: SUPERHEAVY**, with guest appearances by Brian Azzarello (WONDER WOMAN) and Jock (BATMAN: THE BLACK MIRROR). Collects BATMAN #41-45 and DC SNEAK PEEK: BATMAN #1.

dccomics.com



